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Turkey to reopen Iraqi crossing

ANKARA (R) — Turkey announced on Friday that it plans to open the Habur border crossing into northern Iraq. The decision will permit small-scale local trade, mainly Turkish food exports to Iraq which are permitted under U.N. trade sanctions. But on past experience the food will probably be exchanged for petrol, which the Gulf war sanctions forbid Iraq to export. Government spokesman Yildirim Aktuna told Reuters Turkey's adherence to the U.N. embargo would not be undermined. Mr. Aktuna said the revival of low-level trade across the border did not mean Turkish business, which was once heavily invested in Iraqi commerce, would be allowed to resume its activities. The crossing was formally closed in 1990 when the United Nations slapped an embargo on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. But Ankara turned a blind eye to flourishing unofficial trade. Turkish lorries carried fruits and vegetables to northern Iraq and on to Baghdad, and brought back cheap petrol. Kurds in northern Iraq, under the protection of U.S.-led forces, also benefited from the border trade by taxing the lorries.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة يومية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الرأي.

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Damascus assails Barak comments

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — State-run radio on Friday blasted a recent comment by an Israeli official who said the Jewish state should keep the strategic Golan Heights even if peace is achieved with the Syrians.

"Such an Israeli statement could not serve the Middle East peace process but it rather puts obstacles on its way and stymies all international and American efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region," the broadcast said.

Syria seeks the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel seized in the 1967 war. But the Jewish state has offered only a phased and partial withdrawal.

The radio stressed that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Barak's comments about the Golan Wednesday in Washington had given a "clear indication about the reality of the Israeli intentions towards the peace process."

The radio reiterated Syria's demand that peace can not be achieved without Israel's commitment to peace principles, notably a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands.

In Washington, General Barak met with Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Defense Secretary William Perry and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, an Israeli embassy spokesman said.

Gen. Barak told Israeli television the talks with Gen. Shalikashvili focused on "the U.S. contribution to security arrangements which would follow an accord with Syria."

He said it was "important that the Americans understand the serious problems such arrangements could create with the Syrians."

They should prevent "any surprise attack" by Syria, he added.

The television said such arrangements might involve the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights or satellite intelligence.

The embassy spokesman said "the question of possible future agreements and various security arrangements in such future agreements have been discussed in

Dead Sea talks raise questions over Israeli negotiating tactics

Jordanian negotiators blame lack of tangible progress on stalling by other side

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Apart from signing an agreement enabling the Kingdom to export \$30 million worth of consumer goods to the West Bank, Jordan and Israel achieved little in their six-day negotiations which ended Thursday, prompting Jordanian negotiators to raise serious questions about the real intentions of their Israeli counterparts.

Officially, both the Jordanian and Israeli negotiators attributed the lack of achieving tangible progress to the large amount of technical work that has to be tackled by the various committees and subcommittees before any agreement can be reached.

Beneath the surface, however, Jordanian negotiators wondered whether the Israelis were posturing in a bid to wait for developments on the Syrian and Palestinian

fronts before they proceed on the Jordanian track.

A senior Jordanian negotiator said that "one should not expect breakthroughs" after only six days of talks and especially on the water and border issues while Israeli chief negotiator Elyakim Rubenstein told Jordanian reporters that the bilateral negotiations "cannot provide the press with breakthroughs every day."

But true as that may be, technically, Jordanian politicians and negotiators believe that, politically, it is not.

"Although negotiations in general are a game of moving forward and then backward," there has been a feeling that the Israelis are stalling, a senior official told the Jordan Times. The momentum that the negotiators had hoped they had gained after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the Washington Declaration was not transferred into the bi-

lateral at the Dead Sea.

Having entered the bilateral talks with a sense of optimism that the Israeli side would arrive at the negotiating table with a new mandate to forge agreements with Jordan, Jordanian negotiators quickly found out that the Israeli side had even less of a mandate to conclude agreements and was apparently planning to evade reaching any agreement.

In fact, the only track on which Israel was willing to go fast was on the issue of security. Their chief security negotiator had declared that Jordan had accepted a three-point plan which would have the Kingdom stay out of any military coalitions which threatened the security of Israel, a plan that Jordanians rejected outright.

"If we had even considered such a plan we would have been saying to the world 'consider us outside the Arab-Israeli conflict' which serves not only as the frame for our years of belligerency

but stands now as the frame for our peace negotiations," one Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times.

"This would have definitely taken us beyond a state of non-belligerency with Israel to one of total peace, which is what a peace treaty should have done," he added.

Having rejected the Israeli demands for Jordanian concessions on the security issue, Jordanian negotiators found that the Israeli side had stopped providing for any progress on any other track.

By the last two days of negotiations at the Dead Sea Hotel, both Israeli and Jordanian negotiators appeared to be placing the responsibility of providing breakthroughs on their political leaderships. Israel, apparently because it was giving its leadership the necessary time to move on the Palestinian negotiations, which had opened in Egypt, and Jordanians because they were registering very little movement in their talks.

And it was Ambassador Rubenstein who began the call for higher intervention by pointing that while negotiators provided the foundations, the talks needed a higher political decision before an agreement could be signed and he was referring especially to the negotiations over water and boundaries which Jordanians describe as the negotiations over "rights."

Jordanian negotiators, who picked up on the message in Dr. Rubenstein's statements, began to echo it, albeit privately.

One well-placed Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times that it had become apparent to the Jordanian team that after the series of reconciliation moves between the two leaderships, the Israeli side wanted to maintain contacts at the higher level and were not ready to give much on the negotiating table.

He said that Jordanian

negotiators knew that many of the "core issues" on the table, and especially the water issue, could be resolved quickly if the political will was there.

"It is all a matter of numbers and bargaining," the Jordanian negotiator said. "They will ask us how much water we need, we give them a figure, we haggle over it a little bit and then we make a deal."

The boundaries issue, the Jordanian negotiator said, was a bit "more complicated."

"You do actually have to demarcate the borders technically before you can reach an agreement," he said.

But while Israeli negotiators are vocal about their expectations that negotiations stay at a high level — at cabinet ministers — and the political leadership in the country, Jordanian negotiators and political analysts fear that this would lead to a repetition of the Palestinian-

Israeli negotiations where after the Oslo agreement, the role of the Palestinian negotiating team was marginalised and then later completely wiped out.

In every statement by Mr. Rubenstein to the press, he pointed to the need for the higher leadership to interfere almost emptying the bilateral negotiations of their value.

But despite the frustration of the Jordanian negotiators, and sometimes their similar calls for higher intervention, they were also careful to stress that these kinds of negotiations are expected to and should provide the groundwork for agreements.

That is why most of those interviewed by the Jordan Times said they felt it was a mistake to allow Minister of Tourism Mohammad Al Adwan to cross into Israel and meet his counterpart during a tour operators meeting in the second week of bilateral

U.S. reschedules \$311m of Jordan's dues with no bearing on debt relief

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A debt rescheduling agreement covering \$311 million Jordan signed with the U.S. on Thursday does not have any bearing on Washington's moves to write off \$702 million of the Kingdom's debts, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said Friday.

Mr. Gammoh also said Jordan was in "almost daily contact" with other members of the Paris Club to sign similar bilateral agreements in line with the broader accord that the Kingdom reached with them in June before launching discussions with them on debt relief.

The bilateral agreement with the U.S., signed by Mr. Gammoh and American Ambassador Wesley Egan on Thursday, was the first accord to be signed between Jordan and one of its 14 creditors grouped in the Paris Club following the July 28 accord.

Mr. Gammoh said Jordan hoped to conclude such

separate bilateral accords with all of its creditors before the end of the year.

The broad accord with the Paris Club covers \$1.21 billion, and the U.S. has the largest component in that amount, followed by France with about \$200 million. Others are Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Finland, Spain, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Austria, Japan and Britain.

The government of Britain has already extended a debt relief of \$702 million to Jordan, starting with \$220 million this year," Mr. Gammoh said, adding that "discussions on debt relief are on a different track" under which Jordan has already been asked by Washington to outline the specific loans that it prefers to be written off.

"There is no binding rule whatsoever that a debt rescheduled cannot be written off," he said.

Jordan owes the United States a total of around \$950 million, he said. The \$253 million in export credit guarantees — which are not subject to debt write-off anyway — and \$58 mil-

lion in bilateral loans. The rescheduling period for the export credits is 15 years and five years of grace and for 10 years and 10 years of grace for the bilateral loans, he said.

The accord comes in line with the requirements of the deal reached with the Paris Club and streamlines the Kingdom's obligation to the U.S.

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Peres says West Bank handover to begin next week

GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on a landmark visit to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Gaza, said on Friday Israel will begin extending elements of Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank next week.

Mr. Peres, the first Israeli cabinet minister to visit the Gaza City headquarters, spoke at a joint news conference with Mr. Arafat and Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal after talks on "early empowerment" — shorthand for the handover of power in the West Bank beyond the small Jericho self-rule enclave.

"The first step in implementing the early empowerment will take place next week, when Israel will hand over to the Palestinian authority the responsibility

for education in all of the territories, the Palestinian part of it," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres also cleared the way for the Palestinian parliament-in-exile to meet in Gaza to vote on an amendment to the PLO charter scrapping clauses calling for the destruction of Israel.

On Wednesday, Israel, pressed by the PLO to set a date for handing over powers to Palestinians in the still-occupied West Bank, said it would transfer education to their control by the start of the school year on Sept. 1.

The Friday meeting, which marked the first anniversary of secret Norwegian-brokered talks in which the Israeli-PLO peace deal was forged, centred on funding for the cash-starved self-rule as well as PLO efforts to curb militants opposed to the accord.

"We are committed to

Carlos lawyer says French government plotted to kill him

PARIS (Agencies) — The lawyer defending Carlos the Jackal claimed in an interview published Friday that a plot to assassinate him was hatched by the French government.

He did not meet Carlos until this week.

Mr. Verges claimed that Francois de Grossouvre, a Mitterrand friend who committed suicide last year, once told him that he was part of a hit list drawn up by a presidential anti-terrorism adviser.

Those on the list were "reputedly dangerous," Mr. Verges said. "At the time, the president refused... after thinking it over a long time."

One of the world's most wanted men, Carlos' most famous feat was the kidnapping of 11 oil ministers from a conference hall in Vienna, Austria, in 1975.

Former Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani described on BBC television Thursday his ordeal during the kidnapping.

"He said: 'I am Carlos. You know me.' I said: 'Very well!'"

Another hostage grabbed Carlos' machine gun but was unable to use it. Carlos shot the man in the knees and then the stomach. "Just to torture him and then he killed him," Sheikh Yamani said.

Carlos faces three cases in France stemming from his efforts to free Ms. Kopp: — A 1982 bombing off the Champs-Elysees Avenue in Paris that killed one person and injured 63. It occurred

the same day Ms. Kopp's trial began. He was charged with the crime Tuesday.

— The bombing of a Paris-Toulouse train March 29, 1982, that killed five people, about a month after Carlos threatened violence if Ms. Kopp and Bruno Bregret were not freed within 30 days.

The case was reopened Thursday and is expected to result in new charges.

— Charges are also expected into another reopened case, the new year's eve 1983 bombings on an express train and at the Marseille train station that killed six people. It occurred as Ms. Kopp and Mr. Bregret were sentenced to terms of five and four years.

Freed in 1986, Ms. Kopp joined Carlos in Syria, where they were married.

Carlos also is expected to face retrial for the 1975 shooting deaths of two French counterintelligence agents and an informer in Paris. He was sentenced in absentia in 1992 to life in prison, but under French law must be tried again.

Mr. Verges, met interior minister official Roland Kessons regularly, informing him that "it would not be in France's interest to try Ms.

Israel releases 247, exiles them to Jericho

JERICHO (Agencies) — Israel released 247 Palestinian prisoners Friday as part of efforts to move ahead in implementing the Palestinian autonomy accord.

Israel agreed to release 5,000 prisoners by the May 4 accord and has to date released about 4,300. The ongoing detention by Israel of thousands of Palestinians has been a bone of contention in ongoing talks between the sides.

A statement from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office said that the 247 prisoners would have been released sooner, if the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) had been quicker to accept them into Jericho.

The opposition Likud Party criticised the release, coming after repeated Israeli demands that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat step up security and rein in militants staging attacks on Israel.

"This is ridiculous," Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu told Israel radio. "The same day that (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres says the Palestinian police or the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is not establishing security the government releases hundreds more terrorists."

The prisoners had to first sign a promise to "renounce terrorism" and none had



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat declines Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' invitation to join him in his car as they left for lunch in Gaza City after a meeting on Friday (AFP photo)

Israel says guerrilla shot dead

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army said on Friday a Hizbollah guerrilla was killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon on Thursday.


Lebanese security sources had said three guerrillas were killed. The army said seven Israeli soldiers were lightly injured in the incident.

"Two Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded... in a clash... in the western sector of the security zone in South Lebanon," the army said.

"In the clash on was killed and several others escaped."

The statement said five more soldiers suffered "very light" shock and spent the night in hospital.

On the Occasion of
The Prophet's Birthday



ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and to the Jordanian people
its felicitations and
most cordial wishes

U.S. special envoy sees hope in Sudanese peace talks

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Before leaving to observe the next round of peace talks on Sudan's civil war, U.S. diplomatic troubleshooter Melissa Wells said Thursday that she detects a window of opportunity for ending the conflict that has plagued Africa's largest nation for the past 11 years and killed 1.5 million Sudanese.

Ambassador Wells, who was named special representative to Sudan by President Clinton last May, told a briefing at the State Department that her plan is to visit the region and attend the next round of Sudanese peace talks that open in Nairobi, Kenya on Sept. 5.

What is "extremely significant," Ms. Wells said, is that during the last negotiations which took place in July to August, the government in Khartoum discussed for the first time since independence in 1956 "the two underlying problems" to the conflict. She cited these as being the right of the people of southern Sudan to decide "what form of government they wish to live under" and the issue of "religion and the state."

"I'm not saying the millennium has arrived," she noted, but "I found it very healthy that the doors and windows... were all opened" to discuss topics that were considered taboo before, "a good sign" for a political settlement.

In 1993 Amnesty International charged Sudan with the "ethnic cleansing" of the Nuba people of southern Sudan and of gross human rights violations in other parts of the southern war zone. North-South talks brokered by the Nigerian government in 1992-93 in Abuja ended without result. The current Sudan peace talks in Nairobi are sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which includes: Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda.

Ms. Wells, a career diplomat and former ambassador to Mozambique who has made two trips to the region

since her appointment, said "the U.S. government is now giving its full backing to the IGADD process" and to the nations of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Uganda who are active mediators in the peace process.

Asked about the armed conflict in southern Sudan, Ms. Wells acknowledged that "the war in Sudan continues. However, on July 22 the government announced a unilateral ceasefire and this was followed a few days later by the southern factions. It got off to a rocky start but it is still holding."

Unfortunately, she added, "serious fighting still continues among the southern-based SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) factions."

This split in the southern faction is "absolutely devastating in terms of what it means to the peace process," Ms. Wells said, and is something that "those of us on the outside who are trying to bring peace to the country are stressing over and over again to the southern faction."

While famine, which came about by "factional fighting among the southerners," has been largely averted in the region known as the "Hunger Triangle," Ms. Wells said "the threat of death by famine is (still) a very real one."

Explaining that the U.S. government spends about \$2 million a week in humanitarian assistance to Sudan, Ms. Wells said "what is troubling is that about half of that is being spent on air transport." A topic of major interest for donors like the United States at the Sudan peace talks therefore, will be the "opening of corridors to Sudan" for relief supplies, the diplomat said.

This means pushing to implement a May 1994 agreement reached under IGADD that will open "road corridors, rail and barge transport" to the delivery of relief supplies to Sudan's stricken areas. She added that "this can never work unless there is some type of monitoring mechanism and

that is what we are working on."

Asked if U.S. displeasure toward Sudan as a country supporting terrorism would change because of its recent extradition to France of the international terrorist "Carlos the Jackal," Ms. Wells responded that while "the question of Carlos never came up in any of my discussions" with the Sudanese, "I have reiterated the U.S. government's longstanding policy" on countries supporting terrorism and emphasized that it remained "a major obstacle to the betterment of relations between the two countries."

Ambassador David Shinn, Director of the State Department's Office of East African Affairs, agreed that the release of Carlos is "a welcome step" but that "a lot of other issues concerning terrorism vis-a-vis Sudan" remain. He said that the U.S. will "continue to push on the Sudanese to grapple with these problems in addition to some of the human rights issues. So, the overall question of support for terrorism has not gone away — it's still very much there."

Shinn also denied that the Carlos release would have any direct impact upon "our position dealing with the Sudanese in the peace process."

Pressed on whether the release of Carlos meant Sudan was "divesting itself of terrorists," Mr. Shinn replied that although "we would hope that happens," it was far too early to say. "The turning over of Carlos to the French is only several days old now and we do not have any evidence to suggest that this is the beginning of something bigger to come," the official said.

Asked about relations between Libya and Sudan, Mr. Shinn commented that "we have the impression that relations frankly are not particularly warm at the moment. They have run hot and cold (and) I think the current government in Khartoum is one that has traditionally not had a real warm relationship with the Libyans."



DEVASTATION: A woman walks amid the remains of a house destroyed after an earthquake devastated a large part of northwestern Algeria on Thursday. Many of the survivors were in shock amid the heavy damage caused by the quake, measured at between 5.4 and 5.6 on the open-ended Richter scale. The death toll was put at 164 and expected to rise further (see page 12) (AFP photo)

Iran had role in Carlos handover to France, Al Ahram says

CAIRO (AFP) — Iran had a hand in Sudan's decision to hand over Carlos to France, the semi-official Egyptian daily Al Ahram said Friday.

In a long editorial, editor Ibrahim Nafee said that "according to recent and very precise information, Iran forced Sudan (to accept) Carlos's extradition to France" as part of a deal struck between Tehran and Paris for the handover of two senior Iranian officials.

On Dec. 29, France sent back to Iran two Iranians wanted in Switzerland in connection with the murder of Kazem Rajavi, the brother of Massoud Rajavi and leader of the Iranian armed opposition Mujahadeen. France ignored a Swiss request for the extradition of the two saying the decision to send the pair home was "in the national interest."

Al Ahram said Egyptian authorities had "video tapes showing Carlos in Khartoum."

Mr. Nafee, who is close to President Hosni Mubarak, said "reports" drawn up "in the days following Carlos's arrival in Khartoum" last December proved that "there were special ties between

Carlos and the (Sudanese) regime."

The editorial said that according to these reports, Carlos arrived at Khartoum airport amid draconian security measures and in secret. "He was met by an officer of the Sudanese security forces," Nafee said.

According to Al Ahram, Carlos was travelling on an Arab passport in the name of Abdullah Barakat and enjoyed "a certain immunity in his movements inside Sudan."

The paper said Carlos "carried a gun, was escorted by two bodyguards and drank alcohol in public" in violation of Sudan's Islamic laws banning alcohol consumption.

Carlos also "visited certain institutions and academies of the Sudanese armed forces in the company of a high-ranking officer on the pretext of teaching 'strategy,'" the editorial said.

Mr. Nafee said that although Egypt had known for months that Carlos was in Sudan, it "decided to keep quiet... out of regard for the Sudanese people," even though his presence tended

to "confirm the Sudanese regime's involvement in terrorist operations."

In Geneva Thursday, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a human rights organisation operating in 40 countries, announced that it had asked France either to confirm or deny that it had sent back to Iran the two suspects implicated in Rajavi's murder as part of a deal related to Carlos's arrest.

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua "has denied any deal with Sudan but has not yet referred to Iran," a spokesman for the organisation said.

He added that in view of the French government's "astonishing" decision to hand over to Iran the two alleged murderers, the IFOR requests the French representative to confirm to the (U.N.) sub-commission (on human rights) that there was no deal via Iran concerning Carlos.

Officials with the subcommission disclosed that a resolution requesting Iran to return the two suspects to Switzerland will be voted on next Wednesday.

Smuggled antiquities returned to Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — The sculpture of a man about to be skinned alive and a marble frieze immortalising a curly-haired Roman boy have been presented after their return to Turkey.

The priceless Marsyas statue and frieze, dating from around the first century B.C., were smuggled to the United States and repatriated after legal battles and persuasion.

"It is the second victory for Turkey this year in the recovery of illegally excavated historical treasures smuggled to the United States," said Culture Minister Turhanoglu Savaskan.

The first, he told a news conference, was the return from New York of the Garland Sarcophagus last April. The 4.2 tonne sarcophagus, ornamented with Medusas wearing garlands, had been smuggled in 1987.

The Marsyas sculpture in white marble, depicts Marsyas the shepherd-hanging by his hands, awaiting to be skinned alive by a crouching figure sharpening a knife.

Greek mythology has it that Marsyas, a man, who dared to win a contest against the immortal Greek God Apollo, son of Zeus, aroused the wrath of the Olympian gods for having demonstrated better skill in playing his flute than did Apollo with his lyre.

And he paid for it with his life.

The 120-centimetre sculpture was illegally excavated in 1987 near Manisa, western Turkey, 560 kilometres southwest of Istanbul, and smuggled to the United States, Mr. Savaskan said.

Two American collectors, identified as Jonathan Rosen and Robert Hecht, were persuaded to return it to Turkey, he added.

The marble frieze of the curly-haired boy has illegally

excavated in 1984 near a site known as Aphrodisias in Greek mythology, around Aydin province in western Turkey, 730 kilometres southwest of Istanbul. It was smuggled to New York and returned after legal action with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cooperation, Mr. Savaskan said.

"Turkey is in contact with several countries for the repatriation of scores of smuggled treasures," the official said. He did not elaborate.

Last October, a 363-piece historical treasure, known as the Lydian hoard, was returned after a six-year legal battle with New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Currently, officials said, court action was pending in Boston for the return of the Elmalı Hoard — more than 1,000 ancient Greek silver coins worth an estimated \$10 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis support Rabin's policies — poll

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis gave strong approval to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in an opinion poll published on Friday. The Shiluv Institute poll for the daily Maariv showed 66 per cent of 509 Israelis boosted about their leader. The poll suggested Mr. Rabin, boosted by popular peace moves with Jordan, emerged largely unharmed by his government's surprise announcement this week it would tax share profits on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. Sixty-one per cent said Mr. Rabin's credibility was completely restored imposing the capital gains tax in the past. Asked to explain his sudden reversal on the tax, Mr. Rabin, 72, said: "When speaking of a prime minister and finance minister don't expect them to tell the whole truth when speaking of a devaluation or new tax policy."

Lawyer in Kurdish deputies' case released

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Hasip Kaplan, one of the attorneys representing six Kurdish deputies charged with separatism, has been released at Igica, near the Bulgarian border, after being detained for 24 hours, sources close to the case said. Mr. Kaplan was arrested at the seaside resort town Tuesday along with three friends, only one of whom, Sengul Senol, of Germany, was also set free Wednesday. The other two, Ali Haydar Senol and Sait Catalbas are still being detained, the former for undeclared reasons, the latter because of an arrest warrant issued against him, the sources said. The four men were arrested while dining in a restaurant. Authorities have not disclosed the reasons for Mr. Kaplan's arrest. The six Kurdish deputies are charged with separatism and face the death penalty if convicted.

Prince Philip to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Prince Philip will become the first member of the British royal family to visit Israel soon when he accepts an award for his mother from Israel's national holocaust memorial. His mother, Princess Alice of Greece, is buried in Jerusalem. A spokeswoman for Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial, said on Friday the prince accepted an invitation to receive the Righteous Gentile Award for Princess Alice, who protected a Jewish family from Nazis in her Athens palace during World War II. "Yad vashem sent him the invitation and he said he's going to come," spokeswoman Billie Laniado said. She said he would arrive before the end of the year though no date was announced.

Sweeping anti-smoking measures in Bahrain

MANAMA (AP) — An emiri decree has imposed sweeping anti-smoking measures, which ban Bahrainis from growing tobacco plants or setting up cigarette factories. Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa's decree also threatens to prosecute anyone who sells tobacco to youths under 18 years old. The decree banned smoking in closed public places and transport and in industrial institutions. Smoking areas can be designated. The Ministry of Health was instructed to form a committee to set a ceiling for the level of nicotine in cigarettes allowed into the country and to organise anti-smoking campaigns.

Egypt bans teachers from going to Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Authorities at Cairo airport have been instructed to prevent Egyptian teachers from flying to Sudan following reports of maltreatment of Egyptians there, airport security sources said. The measure followed reports that Sudanese officials had seized houses belonging to Egyptians in Khartoum and evicted 33 Egyptian teachers from their residences. The semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said on Wednesday Sudanese officials seized the Egyptian headquarters of the Egyptian community and the private residences of Egyptian teachers in Khartoum. Al Ahram also said an unlicensed truck tried to knock down an Egyptian diplomat in the Sudanese capital but he escaped unhurt. The reported incidents were the latest in a series of events that have taken relations between the two countries to their lowest in years. Sudan said on Monday it had protested to the Egyptian foreign ministry over attacks against two of its diplomats in Cairo.

Suspect in 'Satanic Verses' arson surrenders

ANKARA (AFP) — A fugitive from justice implicated in the 1993 Sivas hotel massacre that targeted a Turkish publisher of extracts from the Satanic Verses has surrendered to Turkish authorities, the Anatolia agency said Friday. Yunus Karatas, for whom Turkish authorities issued an arrest warrant over the massacre, turned himself over to judicial authorities in Sivas, eastern Turkey, the agency said. Mr. Karatas is to be handed over to the Ankara state criminal court for questioning over his alleged role in the July 2 massacre, in which 37 intellectuals and artists perished after Islamic fundamentalists set fire to the Madimak hotel in which they were staying during a cultural festival. The attack followed the publication by one of the hotel guests of translated extracts from the Satanic Verses, whose British author Salman Rushdie has since 1989 been under a death sentence imposed by Iran's fundamentalist regime for the book's alleged blasphemy against Islam. Aziz Nesin, who was not a victim of the attack, had published the extracts in his newspaper Aydinlik as a challenge to a 1989 government ban on the novel. The trial into the massacre opened under the Ankara court's jurisdiction in October 1993 before being adjourned. It resumes on Aug. 31, when pleas are due to be taken.

New SPLA rift as commanders resign

NAIROBI (AFP) — A major rift has rocked a rebel faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), following the resignation of its four key commanders, it was reported last week.

In a statement released here on Wednesday, four key commanders in Riek Machar's SPLA-United faction said they had decided to break away from the movement after finding they would not serve any useful purpose by remaining in it.

The four, who held key portfolios in the movement, are external affairs secretary Commander Dhol Acuil Aleu, civil administration secretary Amon Wan Tok, transport and communications secretary Chol Den Alak and education and religious affairs secretary Isaac Cuir Riak, currently a lecturer at the Nairobi campus of the U.S. International University.

The resignation of the four, all Dinkas, points to a major tribal rift in the faction, which could result in new tribal realignment in the SPLA movement, which took up arms in 1983 in a bid to end domination of the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the Arabised Muslim north.

The organisation broke up

in 1991 into two — the mainstream faction led by SPLA head John Garang and SPLA-United under Riek Machar, which groups most SPLA commanders who had disagreed with Colonel Garang's leadership.

Mr. Machar was later joined by SPLA founder Kerubino Kwanyin Bol after his release from detention in Col. Garang's jails in southern Sudan, and Col. Garang's chief of staff William Nyuon Bany, a Nuer.

But a major crack appeared in SPLA-United recently, leading to the dismissal, resignation and alleged arrests of several key commanders, signalling the possible collapse of the movement.

On July 4, the faction's internal affairs and public security secretary Arok Thon Arok, the highest Dinka in the movement and the de facto number four after SPLA-United leaders Riek, Kerubino and Nyuon Bany, quit, accusing Mr. Riek of dictatorship and poor leadership.

Mr. Arok was particularly upset by an earlier dismissal of the faction's foreign affairs secretary, Lam Akol, and alleged arrests in southern Sudan by Mr. Riek of nine of his commanders, including

information secretary John Luk Jok.

The dismissal of Lam Akol, a Shilluk, and his consequent return to southern Sudan to lead fighters, has recently been causing ripples in the war front around the northern town of Nasir, as the new group is said to be gaining much ground in areas formerly under Mr. Riek's control.

The Khartoum government has taken advantage of the splits in the SPLA movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the last 11 years.

It was not clear what the four intended to do, but informed sources in the rebel movement believe that they were bound to join forces with other commanders who had recently either resigned or had been dismissed from the movement.

Speculations here that high-ranking Dinkas in both factions had met in the Kenyan capital last weekend point to new realignments which could be forged to try to oust both Col. Garang and Mr. Machar, who had recently been moving closer to each other in the face of ongoing talks with the Khartoum government in an effort to end the bloody civil war.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 627195
Dr. Bassam Karadash 759200
Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916
Dr. Salim Al Daboubi 716751
Fire pharmacy 61912
Fire pharmacy 778336
Fire pharmacy 637055
Nairobi pharmacy 62672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samirani pharmacy 637650
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Ahmad Qam (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

AMMAN:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985530
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 713121
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Overseas Calls 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Complaints (directory assistance) 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repair 713111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 660100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/22

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 64241/2
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 66722/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Mubayyeh 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711125
Army, Marja 89161/15
Queen Aila Hospital 60240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09983322
Zarga National Hospital 09983322
Rn Sina Hospital 0990560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09986732
Rn Al Nafes Hospital 0999099
Rn Sina Hospital 0990560
Greek Catholic Hospital 0272275
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 0274700
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/22

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
09:30 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Vienna (OA)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:00 Sana'a (YV)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (add) (RJ)
12:35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:35 Amsterdam (KL)
12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:40 Madrid (add) (RJ)
13:55 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Damascus (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:00 Jeddah (RJ)
21:05 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00 Sana'a (YV)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:30 Vienna (OA)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:00 Sana'a (YV)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
22:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HAZAR RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fil per kg.

Apple 700 / 400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120 / 60
Carrot 230/220
Cauliflower 240 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 350 / 250
Eggplant 400 / 300
Figs 450 / 300
Garlic 800/800
Grapes 250 / 200
Lemon 380 / 240
Marrow (large) 200 / 100
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Melokhiah 130 / 80
Okra 1200 / 800
Orange 500 / 300
Onion (dry) 260 / 180
Sweet Melon 180 / 100
Pepper (hot) 250 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 180
Potato 400 / 250
Peaches 800 / 500
Tomato 110 / 60
String beans 650 / 400
Watermelon 60 / 30

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:40 Coup De Sieu Dans L'Etoile
17:41 Fantomette
17:50 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30 News in French
18:45 Ushuala
19:40 News in Hebrew
19:50 Dimension
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 Movies, Games, and Videos
21:30 The Campbells
22:30 News in English
22:30 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:39 Dhuhr
16:18 Asr
19:21 Maghrib
20:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedia, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624325

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures becoming around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 20 / 33

Aqaba 27 / 40

Deserts 18 / 37

Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity



ATTENDING A SPECIAL GRADUATION: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday attend the graduation ceremony of several Royal Guard personnel who received training in personal protection skills. Among the graduates was Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein who received from the King a golden medal for excelling in her training course. King Hussein also presented awards

to other excellent officers. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Ali, Hamzah and Hashem, as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior Royal Court and government officials, accompanied Their Majesties and watched troops perform field exercises including target shooting. They also watched exercises in judo and other martial arts.

New Fuheis festival committee is service oriented — governor

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Balqa' Governor Eld Qatameh said that the higher committee recently formed to oversee future Fuheis Festivals would not interfere in the work of the original Fuheis committee, rather it would be considered a service committee whose job would be to offer health services, general security and site selection, as well as facilitating public entry.

In a press meeting held Wednesday night at the Roman Church in Fuheis, Mr. Qatameh confirmed that the new committee he formed to manage the Fuheis Festival and which included representatives of the Ministries of Finance and Culture, the Civil Defence Department, the mayor of Fuheis and the Fuheis Youth Club (as committee) in addition to other official bodies, would only help the coming Fuheis festival become international.

Festival founders and organisers objected to the governor's decision to form such a committee because they felt

slighted at not being given what they considered as a substantial role in the structure of the committee.

"The patronage of Prince Hassan to the Fifth Fuheis Festival made it more valuable," said Mr. Qatameh. "So, I have to be involved in order to know what is going on. For instance, at the opening ceremony, Prince Hassan asked me about the absence of children. I did not know what to answer, simply because I had no idea about any affair related to the festival. In fact, I was invited as a guest. But it is possible to answer the Prince saying I do not know? I am the governor and I should know about any activity that occurs here," said Mr. Qatameh.

During the last four years, the Fuheis Festival was attended primarily by Fuheis residents and few outsiders. But the fifth festival witnessed the attendance of a huge number of visitors from Amman, Karak, Zarqa, Ramtha as well as Fuheis.

In addition, the main theatre sat thousands of spectators this year at most of the

festivities, and Lebanese singer Najwa Karam topped them all with an audience of nearly 15,000.

"As authoritative officials, we will not interfere in the festival's programmes," said the governor. "We have nothing to do with the artists to be invited. We will concentrate on service facilities."

The Ministry of Finance will treat Fuheis Festival just like Jerash Festival in exempting it from taxes, said Mr. Qatameh. He declined to give further details on the financial affairs of the festival.

But the questions still waiting for an answer are: Where will the final income go? Who will bear the loss if there is any? Will the Fuheis Youth Club benefit from that income?

"For the four previous years, no one thought of supporting the Fuheis Festival," said Ziad Sweis, a festival founder, told the Jordan Times. "It was financed by the club members only. During the first three years, the expenses were far greater than revenues. As a result every

member of the club used to prepare himself to pay from his own money to cover the festival's expenses. But, at the same time we were happy to present our city's culture."

As for children, "any one who attended a 250-fisticket-price show would be offered a 250-fist orange juice. So, we made no profit. Our aim was to make people happy, to offer them joy, and knowledge of culture," said Mr. Sweis.

This attitude of the Fuheis Club encouraged volunteer work. Many artists followed by giving free performances. "Several singers refused to take any money for their participation, like Iraqi singer Mahmoud Anwar," said Mr. Sweis.

The people of Fuheis still await the final decision of the government regarding the role of the Fuheis Club in light of the formation of the new higher committee. The Fuheis Club committee will hold a meeting tonight to decide what action to take depending on the government's action.

King asks government to help pay PLA salaries

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein instructed the government to make available funds to pay the salaries of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan and to provide their training needs so that they can carry out their responsibilities.

In a message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday King Hussein said that he had received an appeal from Brigadier General Muhammad Abdul Rahim Qudsi, commander of the Bader Forces of the PLA, explaining the difficult position.

"The PLA commander has appealed for our help in a letter dated August 17 in which he expressed the troops' pride in being trained in the Kingdom by the Jordanian Armed Forces, but they are now facing a critical situation after being cut off from financial resources and their morale is being endangered," said King Hussein in his message to Dr. Majali. "In response to this appeal and in

Premier, RJ officials discuss airline's role in era of peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has urged Royal Jordanian (RJ) to prepare itself for more serious work in the coming stage which, he said, would entail major challenges for Jordan in the transport and tourism sectors.

Addressing a meeting at RJ headquarters attended by newly appointed RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi, the prime minister said that in an era of peace the transport and tourism sectors can expect double the volume of demand on their services, and RJ is called on to be ready.

Dr. Majali said that RJ should encourage the private sector to contribute to the Kingdom's endeavours in air transport and tourism. He also pledged that the

government would respond favourably to RJ's requests for amendments to its laws in a manner that would grant the airline more flexibility and overcome obstacles impeding its performance.

During the meeting, a general review of RJ's operations during the first two weeks of August showed that the national carrier achieved successful performance on its North American and North African routes, but its Arabian Gulf and the Indian sub-continent routes showed slightly under performance.

An RJ statement said later that Mr. Dahabi has requested that all RJ departments reduce their expenditures wherever possible, adding that RJ was facing stiff competition in the Middle East region. Mr. Dahabi reported that studies are



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and new President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi (right) discussing airline matters.

Jordan holds good promise for foreign investment, but has to move quickly — international experts

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan holds out good promises for foreign investment, but the Kingdom has to move quickly in the international scene to attract investors through detailed information on what it can offer and liberalisation and privatisation, two international experts say.

Angus Blair and Karen Bradley, analysts with London-based Baring Securities Limited who recently released a thorough study of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), also said that Jordan was not simply facing a regional race for international investment since many other countries outside the Middle East are also offering good opportunities.

As such, said Mr. Blair, Jordan has to exert extra efforts to make itself felt in the international market. "Jordan has to make up its mind whether it wants foreign investment, and if so it has to adopt measures that would make it attractive to investors," he said, adding that unless the Kingdom moved quickly it risks being left behind.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Blair described some of the procedures that foreign investors face in Jordan as cumbersome and suggested

that they be simplified. Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley, who are visiting Jordan to release the Baring report on the AFM which they co-authored, cited Morocco as an example of how countries could open their door wide for foreign investments, particularly in stock markets.

Morocco removed all restrictions on foreign participation in its stock market. As a result, the bulk of \$200 million in foreign capital that came to North Africa and the Middle East in 1993 went to Morocco, Mr. Blair said. But that amount compares with a total of \$52 billion in international capital that moved out from the industrialised countries into emerging markets, he said.

In one year, market capitalisation in Morocco jumped from \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion, the analysts said. Jordan has to explain in clear terms to foreign investors the opportunities available in the Kingdom, simplify procedures, liberalise the economy and adopt a clear position on privatisation, they said.

While these requirements are universal, "peace is an extra dimension" that is bringing and will bring additional focus on Jordan and other countries in the region for potential investment, Mr. Blair said.

Asked how regulatory

measures c. foreign capital participation in strategic industries affect investor mentality, Mr. Blair said the limitations in place in Jordan were not unique and were applicable in many countries, and investors understand the motivations behind it.

Both Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley cited Beirut and the fast moves adopted by the Lebanese to regain their pre-crisis role as the economic centre of the Middle East as another factor that should warrant a faster pace in Jordan's moves to project itself favourably in the international investment market.

Mr. Blair cited telecommunications as an area of key interest for foreign investors.

Reminded that Jordan's state-run Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) is a key source of revenues to the government and asked how the authorities could be expected to privatise it, Mr. Blair pointed out that in 10 years time technology would have advanced so far ahead that it would take massive investment in the sector.

The government may not be in a position to do that at that point in time, and by then it might be a little too late to start the process of privatisation to attract foreign capital if Jordan was to catch up with the technolo-

gical advances in the field of fibre-optics, microwave links and satellite communications, he said.

The report prepared by Mr. Blair and Ms. Bradley gives high marks to the AFM, describing it as relatively sophisticated and well-managed despite its small size.

It says that the AFM is relatively cheap by current emerging market values and would benefit from a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The report said that shares at the AFM were trading at around 17 times 1994 earnings, and at about 13 times if distorting factors are excluded.

The report came against a dramatic recovery in the AFM after more than four months of stagnation during which prices saw a decline of up to 25 per cent since the beginning of the year. The drop was attributed mainly to uncertainties of economic benefits for Jordan from the Middle East peace process and movement of capital from the trading floor to fresh issues in the market.

Jordanian stocks are seen to be on the road to recovery with the dramatic progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations in the peace process. Prices shot up by nearly eight per cent in the last three weeks, and latest indications are

that the upward trend is likely to continue.

Baring Securities Limited, whose advice is taken seriously by international investors, also has a department for portfolio management.

The firm's report on Jordan notes that Arab-Israeli peace initiatives are already stimulating local demand, and increasing foreign investment along with good economic fundamentals should drive the market ahead.

Further liberalisation of the financial infrastructure is planned and the government is committed to encouraging foreign investment, the analysts point out, adding that they expect the Jordanian economy to register a six per cent growth in 1994 and seven per cent in 1997.

At the end of 1993, the total capitalisation of the companies listed in the organised share market stood at around JD 3.4 billion at the end of June 1994 compared with JD 2.27 billion at the end of 1992 and JD 1.69 billion at the end of 1991.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 1.66 billion, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 1.42 billion, the services sector with JD 670 million and the insurance sector with JD 79.41 million, according

NEWS IN BRIEF

Petra returns to Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said it reopened its Beirut office Thursday, after a break of more than six years. Petra Director General Abdullah Etoum, who opened the office, said the step was taken as life in the Lebanese capital has returned to normal.

JD 100,000 allocated to needy orphans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf has allocated JD 100,000 for distribution this month to needy orphans in the various governorates, according to ministry Secretary General Ahmad Helayel. Dr. Helayel told the Jordan Times Friday that the sum has been allocated in response to instructions by His Majesty King Hussein that the donation be made to mark the Kingdom's observation today of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. He said the donation was in keeping with a tradition started by the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The announcement was made by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi in a keynote address delivered at a major ceremony organised at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture Thursday on the eve of the holy anniversary. At the ceremony, which was organised by the ministry and attended by ministers, senior officials and key public and religious figures, King Hussein presented royal medals to several individuals who have built mosques in Jordan and donated the largest sums of money to the Zakat fund.

Temperatures to drop

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Meteorology expects temperatures to subside to their annual average today ending the heat wave that has affected the eastern Mediterranean region for nearly a week. A department statement said that the highest temperatures recorded during the heat spell were 44°C in the eastern desert, 43°C in the Jordan Valley and 40°C in Amman.

CDD responds to 555 emergencies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) said that it responded to 555 emergencies in last week in which 12 persons were killed. CDD Public Relations Director Abdul Raouf Ma'aytah said that the emergencies included 73 fires.

JEA, RSS teams to head for Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — A team from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) will leave Amman Sunday for Germany on a week-long visit to discuss prospects for implementing the wind power project in Jordan. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Zoubi who is to lead the team said that the project, which is to be financed by the German Ministry of Technology and Scientific Research, is aimed at enabling the Kingdom to make use of alternative sources of energy.

Amman cultural meeting to start

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Minister of Culture Juma'a Hammad, the Third Amman Cultural Meeting, "The Criticism Movement in Jordan," will be inaugurated at the conference auditorium of the Royal Cultural Centre Monday afternoon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting on copper exhibition by Mohammad Jodi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ "The Child's World Festival 1994" (containing all children needs) at the World Exhibition Center, University Road (Tel. 643844).
- ★ Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed By Artists" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamounki at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shaban at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utshela (Tel. 626932).

PLAY

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 20:00.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Relations" by Dr. Sami Abdullah and Dr. Munir Hamarneh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 18:30.

New Sri Lanka premier sworn in

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka installed Chandrika Kumaratunga of the People's Alliance as its second woman prime minister Friday but the defeated United National Party kept control of the armed forces.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, a United National Party (UNP) nominee who faces a separate presidential poll in November, retained the defence portfolio when the 23-member cabinet was sworn in.

Prime Minister Kumaratunga, whose mother Srima Bandaranaike was the world's first woman prime minister, has vowed to end the 11-year-old civil war in which over 30,000 people have been killed.

The defence portfolio is crucial to how the government deals with the insurgency by guerrillas seeking a homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

But political analysts said they believed Mr. Wijetunga, who can assign himself any

cabinet post, would not obstruct the People's Alliance (PA). The PA's Anura Kumaratunga, Mr. Bandaranaike's cousin, was sworn in as deputy defence minister.

Sri Lankans, who voted to end the UNP's 17-year reign at Tuesday's polls, began returning to work Friday and shops reopened after a 55-hour post-election curfew lapsed. But fears of violence meant few markets were open and fewer buses operating.

Ms. Kumaratunga wore a bright blue sari, the colour of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party which is the main component of the PA. She took the oath of office in a simple ceremony at the president's residence and was also sworn in as minister of finance and planning.

The 49-year-old Kumaratunga, who wants to talk to Tamil rebels to end their bloody campaign for independence, also took control of a new portfolio, ethnic affairs and national integra-

tion.

Ms. Kumaratunga's 78-year-old mother, who served two terms in office in the 1960s and 1970s, was made minister without portfolio. The frail-looking Mrs. Bandaranaike was helped to her seat by her daughter.

Other key cabinet posts went to Dharmasiri Senanayake (information, tourism and aviation) and Professor G.L. Peiris (external trade, justice and constitutional affairs).

Kingsley Wickremaratne received the trade portfolio, Lakshman Kadirgamar took foreign affairs and veteran leftist Bernard Soysa became minister of science, technology and human resources development.

Mohammad Ashraff, whose Sri Lanka Muslim Congress won seven seats in the 225-seat parliament and has pledged support for the PA which won 105, was made Minister of Shipping and Ports and Rehabilitation.

Ms. Kumaratunga later

attended a religious ceremony at a Buddhist temple outside Colombo.

The national flag hung from street lamps as Sri Lankans, tired of the ethnic war, rested their hopes for peace on Ms. Kumaratunga, an untried and untested politician. A nightly curfew remains.

Ms. Kumaratunga, who met Tamil militants in the early 1980s along with her politician-husband Vijaya, says she is ready to go to the north to open talks with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

She has also pledged to wipe out bribery and corruption and enforce market reforms with a safety net for the poor.

But her party's biggest problem could be enacting constitutional reforms. The PA wants to scrap the executive presidency and revert to a Westminster-style government where parliament is supreme.



A Buddhist monk pours blessed water over the hands of New Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, leader of the People's Alliance (PA), during a Buddhist ritual performed after the swearing in of the new prime minister (AFP photo)

New Zealander conducts own funeral

WELLINGTON (R) — A thrifty New Zealander conducted an unusual funeral Friday — his own. Wheelchair-bound Alan Kearns, 66, pre-recorded his own funeral service for 120 mourners with readings from the Bible and a selection of songs including his theme tune, Wheels. Mr. Kearns, who died of cancer Thursday in the South Island city of Christchurch, wrote his own death notice announcing he had "left this world for a better place, or if not, at least for a warmer climate."

Mr. Kearns had planned to save on undertaker's fees by catching a taxi to his funeral, but was thwarted because hospital authorities did not want the body lying around waiting for a cab, a spokesman for undertakers Simplicity Funerals said.

Mongolia brands U.S.-Khan-hunter a profit-seeker

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia is upset over a deal, purportedly signed without official consent, allowing an amateur U.S. archaeologist to hunt the lost tomb of 13th century world conqueror Genghis Khan. The state-run newspaper Ardin Erkh confirmed that Chicago commodities broker Maury Kravitz signed a pact with a unit of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and stopped short of declaring the agreement invalid. But the newspaper denied Mr. Kravitz had an exclusive contract with the government, as he claimed in an interview with Reuters, and it belittled the would-be Indiana Jones for using science to cloak a lust for profit.

All female Waiting For Godot scrapped

SYDNEY (R) — Theatre audiences waiting for the curtain to go up on an all-female production of Waiting For Godot may end up like the characters of the avant-garde play — unfulfilled and disappointed. A Sydney drama group's production of Irish writer Samuel Beckett's play was abandoned after English representatives of Beckett's estate revoked its production rights in protest against women playing the characters. "They have revoked the rights because it was Mr. Beckett's wish that none of the roles ever be played by women," said the production's director, David Jobling. Beckett, who died in 1989, did not want women playing the roles because they could not emotionally identify with having a bad prostate gland, a condition suffered by one of the tramps in the play, Jobling said. Godot is an enigmatic, never defined, being in the 1953 play for whom the all-male characters anxiously wait to deliver them from their bleak, alienating surroundings. Godot never turns up. Beckett's estate became concerned about the female production by Sydney's Wayside Theatre after hearing reports the group wanted to call their version "Ms Godot" Jobling said.

Female gangsters attacking Tokyo men

TOKYO (AFP) — Tokyo police have launched a hunt for young female gangsters who are luring men through erotic encounters via so-called telephone sex clubs and then robbing them, the press reported Friday. A 38-year-old office worker told police Thursday that he had been robbed of 22,000 yen (\$220) and a cash card at a hotel in Tokyo's Shibuya district by two beautiful women he met through a telephone sex club, where men and women have intimate conversation by phone and then arrange dates. The two women, in their mid-twenties and wearing short black dresses, hit him on his head with a club and zapped him with a stun gun, the man reportedly told police. They took his clothes off, tied him up and took photographs of him, which made him think for a moment that the pair was just trying out a sadomasochistic play. But the women told him they would publicise the photos if he told police about the theft. On Thursday, on the heels of the Shibuya robbery Wednesday, another man was robbed of 120,000 yen (\$1,200) in cash at a hotel in Sumida, eastern Tokyo, by three girls "who looked like high-school students," police said.

Russia defends nuclear control; awaits Kohl envoy

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia denied Friday new Western assertions that it was the source of plutonium smuggled to the West, on the eve of a visit by a senior German official who will press Moscow to tighten controls over its nuclear stockpiles.

"Our position has not changed," a spokesman for the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry said in response to the assertion Thursday by European experts that a cache of plutonium 239 seized in Germany last week came from Russia.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, Bernd Schmidbauer, is to arrive Saturday to "find out how much the Russians know and how we can increase safeguards," German embassy spokesman Enno Barker told AFP.

"His goal is to ensure that we will not have any confusing phases in the future when we find nuclear material that we suspect being of Russian origin," Mr. Barker said.

Mr. Schmidbauer was to stay in Moscow until Monday, meeting with the chief of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK), Sergei Stepanin, and Atomic Energy Ministry officials.

Russian officials however dismissed the visit as unnecessary.

"There should be no worry because there is nothing to

worry about," FSK spokesman Vladimir Kamorovski said.

"Our service has registered no theft of loss" of uranium or plutonium from Russian nuclear facilities, he stated.

Meanwhile in Brussels Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed the suspected smuggling of nuclear material from Russia with his counterparts from Britain, France and Germany, U.S. diplomats there said.

The four ministers were in the Belgian capital for a memorial service for NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, who died Saturday of cancer.

On Thursday, the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) confirmed that six grammes of plutonium seized in May by German police came from a Russian nuclear complex.

Plutonium is a deadly radioactive metal used in making nuclear bombs and even small amounts are toxic enough to poison a city's water supply.

The announcement Thursday that Russian police had arrested three people in Kaliningrad who were attempting to sell a 60-kilogramme (132-pound) lead container of radioactive material was the latest in a spate similar discoveries.

The Russian Atomic Energy

Ministry said Friday that the container held radioactive geological equipment but not uranium or plutonium.

According to Ivan Blokov at Greenpeace's Moscow office, the radiation level on the outside of the container was "quite high," at 40 times greater than normal background levels.

Mr. Barker said the Kaliningrad bust added weight to German suspicions that the captured material in Germany might be of Russian origin.

"At least it makes it harder for Russian authorities to maintain that in Russia everything is fine," he said.

But Russian officials not only repeated that Russia was not responsible for what could be the world's most dangerous black market, but that attempts to label Russia as the source of the contraband were a plot.

"We are breaking into the international market and we are ready to sell our uranium and our nuclear fuel for the nuclear power stations. These accusations are designed to sink our prestige on the international markets," said Georgi Kurov, spokesman at the Atomic Energy Ministry.

It is the West "which must prove the Russian origin of the plutonium and not us who must justify ourselves," he said.

Mr. Barker said the row

may simply be the result of bad communication and that the Russian government was now at least ready to discuss the possibility that its nuclear network was supplying the black market.

A senior U.S. official said that the plutonium seized in Germany over the past four months is not weapons grade and probably came from a research reactor, conflicting with European analysis of the material.

The official also said there is no evidence that a black market has developed for such nuclear material but said U.S. officials are concerned that it is showing up.

"(Though) the levels of risk of a very serious diversion are quite low, that does not mean it is not an issue of the highest priority for us," said the official, who briefed reporters on condition she not be identified.

"We cannot confirm that the material comes from Russia," she said. "We are quite certain, however, that it does not come from a nuclear weapon or a nuclear weapon-related activity."

"The material appears to be reactor material, particularly from a research reactor activity," she said.

She said the nuclear material in one of the seizures was too rich with plutonium-239 to be used to make a bomb and the others were too low.

IAEA confirms all S. African nuclear warheads destroyed

VIENNA (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Friday confirmed that South Africa has dismantled all nuclear weapons built covertly while the country was an international pariah because of apartheid.

"I can confirm that they have all been dismantled," IAEA spokesman Hans Meyer told Reuters from IAEA Headquarters in Vienna. He said the U.N. nuclear safeguard agency's inspectors had carried out very intensive inspections.

Jacobus De Villiers, chairman of the South African Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC), told parliament in Cape Town Thursday that much scepticism had greeted then President F.W. de Klerk's announcement in 1993 that all six warheads had been dismantled.

"Initially, this announcement elicited many inquiries from various quarters and doubts were raised whether the total capability was indeed destroyed and whether all the nuclear material was declared," he said in his annual report.

"A policy of total transparency and full cooperation was applied" when an IAEA team visited South Africa,

the report said.

"South Africa's credibility was confirmed without qualification. South Africa is the first and, to date, the only country which voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons capability," Mr. De Villiers said.

Meanwhile, cracks are appearing in South Africa's black-white coalition government as it marks 100 days in office.

"The red lights are flashing," said Deputy President F.W. de Klerk, the man who released Nelson Mandela from jail four years ago and now serves under the country's first black head of state.

The quarrel, which is about power-sharing between Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and its junior partner, Mr. De Klerk's National Party (NP), has been brewing for some time.

But it intensified Thursday after Mr. Mandela gave a progress report to parliament on how his government has performed since he was sworn in on May 10.

Perhaps to upstage his boss, Mr. De Klerk called a news conference after Mr. Mandela had spoken to condemn what he termed insulting offers by the ANC to the

NP of chairmanships of important parliamentary committees that handle legislation.

He said ANC leaders had agreed to share out the leadership of the 27 multi-party committees in the same proportion as the 27 cabinet seats.

At present the ANC holds 18 seats in the cabinet to the NP's six, with three allocated to a third party.

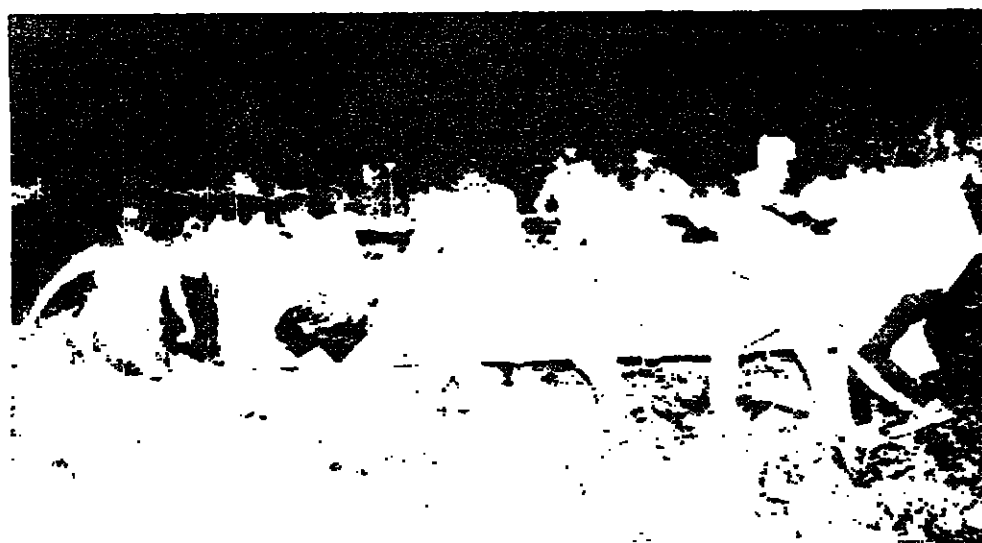
Crying foul, Mr. De Klerk complained that the ANC had offered his party only four unimportant chairmanships and one deputy chairmanship.

"We will not be pushed around," Mr. De Klerk said, adding that his party had considered, and rejected, the idea of withdrawing from the government.

"First major rift for government," trumpeted the Star newspaper of Johannesburg Friday.

What has particularly irked the NP is that the chairmanship of the powerful Select Committee on Defence has been offered to Constant Viljoen of the ultra-rightist Freedom Front.

Mr. Mandela himself had said previously he wanted the NP to chair some of the committees, but his party had declined to promise the NP a role.



A group of Cuban men launches a raft made from scrap material on the coast of Colimar near Habana, Cuba. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced that all Cubans would be detained on their arrival in the United States rather than released into the community as has been the policy under the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act (AFP photo)

Clinton moves to head off new foreign policy crisis over Cuban refugees

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration, hoping to head off a new international crisis, has reversed the 30-year-old U.S. policy of accepting all Cuban refugees.

But in announcing the change at an extraordinary late night news conference at the White House, Attorney General Janet Reno raised more questions than she answered.

Ms. Reno, who appeared before about half a dozen reporters and cameramen in a partly-lit press room, made a brief statement saying that the United States would detain Cuban refugees who arrived without visas. She declined to elaborate, turned on her heel and left.

"In an effort to deter more Cubans from risking their lives, effective immediately, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) will detain all individuals intercepted," Ms. Reno said.

"The detention of these people will continue pending a determination of how they should be processed by the INS," she added.

Ms. Reno did not say where or for how long the Cubans would be detained or whether those not deemed political refugees would be sent back to Cuba.

The sudden turnaround in U.S. policy is certain to have critics crying "flip-flop" since White House and State Department officials had said as recently as Thursday that the administration was not contemplating a change.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers played down a request from Florida Governor Lawton Chiles for emergency help in dealing with the latest influx of Cuban refugees, calling the situation "orderly."

She conceded the numbers had increased — 527 arrived by small boat and makeshift raft Thursday — but said most were being placed with relatives "in Florida, in New York, New Jersey and other places around the country."

Ms. Reno herself earlier insisted there was no crisis. "Don't be melodramatic," she told reporters. "What we're trying to do is work

with state and local officials, with the local community."

State Department sources could not confirm a policy change as recently as Thursday afternoon.

That policy, hammered out during the cold war, virtually allowed Cubans to enter the United States with no questions asked and without visas.

Cubans fleeing their country are eligible to apply for permanent residents status after living in the United States for one year. Those who arrive on rafts or are rescued by the Coast Guard undergo only a cursory interview by immigration officers and, within hours, are turned over to charity organisations or relatives.

The rationale for the policy was that Cubans were leaving a Communist regime and so deserved refuge. Mr. Castro attacked the practice as encouraging illegal emigration and human rights advocates criticised it as discriminatory since Haitians had no such advantage when they applied for political asylum in the United States.

Australian astronomers observe violent galaxy event

SYDNEY (R) — Australian astronomers said Friday they were observing the most violent event in the galaxy in the past 100 years and speculated the enormous energy source could be a black hole swallowing a star.

"Being conservative, I would say a large proportion of a star has gone into a black hole," Duncan Campbell-Wilson, astronomer with the University of Sydney, told Reuters.

"We just don't know at present. We haven't had time to reflect on everything."

A black hole is a star which has collapsed on itself, creating a gravitational force so strong light cannot escape.

Timor rebels offer unilateral truce

LISBON (R) — Guerrillas fighting for the independence of East Timor said Friday they would declare a unilateral ceasefire if the Indonesian government was prepared to start serious talks with them.

Jose Ramos Horta, the Australia-based overseas representative of the armed resistance movement in East Timor, said he had been specifically authorised to make the offer by guerrilla leader Konis Santana.

Ramos Horta made the ceasefire proposal in an interview with Portugal's TSF Radio following a series of moves by the Roman Catholic Church and the Indonesian Armed Forces suggesting the start of a dialogue in the former Portuguese colony.

"The moment that Indonesia shows it is seriously ready for dialogue the resistance will declare a (unilateral) ceasefire," Ramos Horta said.

"We do not want to waste an opportunity. We do not want to be accused of being

extremists or radicals who refuse dialogue," he added.

Last week, Carlos Ximenes Belo, the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Timor, said in an open letter that Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975, should hold a referendum in the territory to decide its future.

Failing that, he proposed talks between the Indonesian government and "the political parties which once existed in East Timor" on how to give effective autonomy to the territory of 750,000 people.

Major Simbolon, a military spokesman in the East Timor capital Dili, reacted by saying "we are ready and willing to hold talks with anyone."

Mr. Ramos Horta said the military commander of the guerrilla forces in East Timor had specifically endorsed Ximenes Belo's proposal and would declare a unilateral ceasefire if this or any other peace initiative led to the start of a serious dialogue.

"Konis Santana gives his support to Dom Ximenes Be-

lo's initiative, so long as there are safeguards which I have insisted on repeatedly," Mr. Ramos Horta said.

"The United Nations must be involved in one way or another so that Indonesia does not transform this process into just a bilateral dialogue between the resistance and the Indonesian army," he stressed.

The United Nations does not recognise Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, but for two years it has hosted exploratory talks between Indonesia and Portugal to seek an internationally acceptable solution for the territory.

These meetings between the foreign ministers of the two countries have created a less hostile climate between Jakarta and Lisbon but have made little other progress.

Mr. Ramos Horta said he was still not convinced that Indonesia really wanted a dialogue with opposition groups in East Timor after using the army for 19 years to crush all dissent.

U.S. senators to unveil health compromise bid

WASHINGTON (R) — Moderate Senate Democrats and Republicans were to unveil Friday a compromise health reform plan that aimed to revive the sputtering reform initiative and cast health care in starker economic terms.

Members of the group, known as the "mainstream coalition," hope to shift the health debate away from universal coverage and restore deficit reduction as a major issue.

The nation's trillion-dollar health care bill represents one-seventh of the economy. If nothing is done, in a decade health costs will swallow 20 cents out of every dollar.

The mainstream coalition hopes its "bundle of amendments" scaling back the Senate Democratic leadership reform proposal will bridge the chasm between the two parties which have spent more time venting partisan senti-

ment than acting on the substance of the bill, debated for more than a week.

About 20 senators have taken part in mainstream meetings at various points this summer. About a dozen were present at the Thursday afternoon meeting where the plan came together.

President Bill Clinton started out with the twin goals of cost containment and universal coverage.

But the spotlight stuck on universal coverage, partly because the White House emphasised the social justice aspects and partly because there was so much disagreement over the various taxes or price limits proposed as possible tools for reining in spiraling costs.

Group members said their approach does less than the Democratic bill drafted by majority leader George Mitchell of Maine, which Mr. Clinton has endorsed, and

more than the Republican alternative by minority leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

Although it falls short of universal coverage, "we think we'll add millions of people to the rolls of the insured," said Republican John Danforth of Missouri.

Whether that will satisfy Mr. Clinton and Democratic lawmakers who share his goal of universal coverage is uncertain. For instance, Minnesota Democrat Paul Wellstone, said "there is not much of a chance" he can back the mainstream approach if it leaves millions of Americans uninsured.

But Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, a long-time advocate of health reform, said, "this is encouraging. This is an indication we can do business with the group."

The Mitchell bill aims to cover 95 per cent of the population by the year 2000, and puts into motion backup measures that will expand

coverage if that target is not achieved. The Dole bill attempts to make insurance more accessible but does not purport to cover everyone.

Mitchell needs 51 votes to pass his legislation. Not all the 56 Senate Democrats support his bill, and passage would be easier if he could work out a deal with moderate Republicans.

If conservative Republicans filibuster, using endless debate to stall action, Sen. Mitchell would need 60 votes to break it. There is no way he could accomplish that without the moderates.

Backers of the "mainstream" group, who were working on a final section of the plan before making it public, have said it will include subsidies to help low-income people and to help cover pregnant women and children. Details of what income levels would qualify have not been worked out.

NGTON (R) — A New Zealand couple has an unusual funeral — his own. A 66-year-old man, a hair-bound Alan, died of cancer Thursday. His funeral service for 120 people was held at a church, with readings from the Bible and a selection of his poems. Mr. Keane, who wrote his own service, announced he was not attending the funeral, or if not, at least not in person. Mr. Keane had planned to save the funeral's fees by hiring a taxi to his funeral, but authorities did not allow a body lying around in a cab, a spokesman said.

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ATOR (R) — Monopsony over a deal, signed without consent, allowing a U.S. archaeologist to excavate the lost tomb of the world conqueror Chan. The state-run Ardian Erkhone, a Chicago-based contractor, is in a pact with a Mongolian Academy of Sciences and stopped short of the agreement but the newspaper K. Kravitz had an contract with the nt, as he claimed in an interview with Reuters. He would be the first to use the tomb for profit.

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(R) — Theatre making for the camp on an all-female of waiting for y end up like the of the avant-garde fulfilled and de- A Sydney dance production of Irish uel Becker's play ives of Becker's its production protest against the use of Mr. ish that none of ver be played by said the producer, David Job- it, who died in not want women's roles because not emotionally th having a bal and, a condition one of the trampy, Jobling said, enigmatic, new ing in the 1930s: the all-male anxiously wait em from their ating surround- never turns utate became out the female prod- ydney's Wayst- hearing report- anted to call their Godot." Jobling

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1994 5



With outstretched arms, Rwandan Hutus line-up before being frisked by French Legionnaires as they are about to attend a meeting addressed by Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front

(RPF) Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga in a reconciliation bid, at Cyangugu stadium. Some 3,000 Hutus came up on the site (AFP photo)

Seoul said drawing up contingency plans for N. Korean collapse

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam has ordered government agencies to draw up contingency plans for any sudden collapse of the regime in North Korea, officials said Friday.

Yonhap News Agency said the contingency plans included the drafting of new laws, a constitution for a unified Korea, and the forming of unified armed forces.

Under the order, each government ministry started taking a fresh look at various scenarios and problems expected to follow a collapse, a presidential aide said.

"Each of government agencies had already prepared various scenarios and plans and the order galvanized them into considering the most comprehensive and realistic ones," the aide, Park Jin, said.

On Thursday, Mr. Kim told members of his ruling Democratic Liberal Party: "No one knows when unification may come. We should make preparations for sudden unification."

North Korea accuses the South of seeking unification through "absorption," a charge denied by the South, which in turn has long feared an attack by Pyongyang.

Mr. Kim's order came during a downswing in thorny inter-Korean relations, which shot up on the expectation of a summit meeting two months ago. Bitter mudslinging resumed after the death of North Korean strongman Kim Il-Sung on July 8.

The sudden death, apparently caused by a heart attack, scuttled the planned summit, which was to have been a first in history.

Priority in the contingency planning will be given to areas requiring most urgent attention in the event the Pyongyang regime falls, including food and electricity supply to the North and massive exodus of refugees from the North.

The government also wants to ensure military preparedness and an improved U.S.-South Korea joint defense posture in case the North should resort to a surprise attack against the South out

of frustration, Yonhap said. Analysts are divided over how long the Stalinist North could last in the face of deepening economic woes and world isolation.

Some analysts predict the North would survive only for the next few years. But Kim Dae-Jung, a retired opposition leader-turned-expert on the unification issue, has said the North's self-reliant economy could survive a long time even without outside support.

North Korea's official media Friday referred for the first time to the "haggard" appearance of leader designate Kim Jong-Il, increasing speculation about his health.

Last month Mr. Kim, 52, was shown at the funeral of his father, Kim Il-Sung, looking frail and pale.

After she "saw the haggard face of the dear leader Kim Jong-Il on the TV screen during the mourning period," nine-year-old girl decided to write him a letter, said a Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) dispatch, monitored in Tokyo.

India: Pakistan behind nuclear smuggling

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Friday the discovery of smuggled plutonium in Germany confirmed its belief that Pakistan was secretly acquiring material for nuclear weapons.

Berlin police said they found evidence of planned or successful shipments of plutonium to Pakistan during raids of seven apartments around the city Wednesday.

"This only goes to confirm what we have repeatedly said, that Pakistan has a clandestine nuclear programme and continues to acquire, through questionable means, such material as is necessary for such activity," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Indian deputies called for an official inquiry into the alleged smuggling by Pakistan.

"Nuclear terrorism cannot be allowed in the subcontinent," Jaswant Singh, head of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, told the lower house of parliament.

"Let the government share information on the issue with the members."

The Pakistani government denied it was linked to any conspiracy to smuggle plutonium from Germany.

The Indian Foreign Ministry said Pakistani agencies had made earlier bids to acquire weapons-grade nuclear material in the United States and the Netherlands.

The threat of nuclear weapons has long clouded relations between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since they gained independence in 1947.

India tested an atomic device in 1974 but says it has no nuclear bomb. Pakistan denies it has a nuclear weapon but says it can build one.

Western diplomats believe both countries could easily assemble nuclear devices.

India has balked at signing the international nuclear non-proliferation treaty, set to be extended next year, saying it discriminates against non-nuclear powers.

Pakistan has proposed a regional pact barring nuclear weapons from South Asia, with the United States, Russia and China providing guarantees. India has declined the offer, citing threats from China.

Mr. Kuchma to press for Ukraine's NPT approval

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma pledged in an interview published Friday to secure parliamentary approval for an international pact committing Ukraine to give up nuclear weapons for good.

Mr. Kuchma, who had previously been ambiguous on joining the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), told the daily Ukraina Moloda he would present the pact to parliament for approval in October. He is due to visit Washington in November.

"A single problem remains between us and the United States — the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It must be signed," he told the daily.

15,000 Rwandans cross into Zaire

GENEVA (Agencies) — Rwandan refugees are pouring over the border into Zaire at the rate of 30 per minute and may total 15,000 by the end of the day, the United Nations said Friday.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also said Zaire had informed the agency a few days ago it would close its border with Rwanda if an exodus resembled a "Goma-like situation" — a reference to the Zairean border town of Goma where 800,000 people are stranded in disease-ridden camps.

Relief agencies, including the UNHCR, fear a huge mass movement of displaced people ahead of Monday's withdrawal of French troops from a "safe zone" in southwestern Rwanda.

A UNHCR spokeswoman in Geneva, speaking after receiving a midday telephone report from UNHCR delegates in Bukavu, Zaire, said the border remained open for now. The agency was working "quite closely" with Zairean authorities.

"The movement today is definitely increasing," she told Reuters.

"They are coming over at the rate of 30 per minute. If it continues at this level, we may see 15,000 cross over today," the spokeswoman added.

UNHCR said earlier that between 2,000 and 6,000 had crossed over Thursday.

It has warned that there are insufficient facilities to accommodate a fresh outflow of refugees to Bukavu, already home to some 320,000 Rwandans who fled in an earlier wave.

However, the agency has identified three new sites for establishing camps near Bukavu, with a capacity of 100,000.

Zairean authorities told UNHCR "a couple of days ago" it would seal off borders if there was an exodus, according to the spokes-

woman.

"We have heard Zaire will close the border if there is a Goma-like situation, for reasons of safety and security... We have not heard they are definitely closing it today," she said.

U.N. troops are to take over from departing French troops to protect Hutus who feared a backlash from the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and fled to the southwest after the RPF installed a new government on July 18.

A UNICEF official who has just returned from the region told a news briefing Friday: "An exodus from Bukavu would be a tragedy worse than Goma."

The official added: "The world does not have a long attention span. The logistical and humanitarian situation in Bukavu is very complicated and Zaire is already exhausted."

UNHCR is running five camps for 850,000 refugees near Goma, where epidemics of cholera and dysentery have claimed 32,000 lives.

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday the two epidemics were coming under control.

The Nobel Peace Prize-winning UNHCR looks after some 20 million refugees and internally displaced people worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes by civil war, ethnic conflicts and climatic disasters including drought.

Its general policy is that governments should take in refugees fleeing conflicts or persecution in their homelands.

"Generally we ask governments to keep their borders open," the UNHCR spokeswoman told Reuters.

"But in this case, we see no imminent threat to their safety or security in Rwanda. On the contrary we would see a threat to their safety and security if they cross into Zaire in large numbers because the conditions are so poor."

She added: "We understand the Zairean government position, and are working quite closely with them."

U.N. commander for

Rwanda General Romeo Dallaire said Friday his force had the mandate and determination to assist Rwandans with "minimum force" as it takes over from French troops in the southwestern "safety zone."

"We have not only the mandate but the determination, the training and the equipment to do the job" in the safety zone, said Gen. Dallaire, the outgoing commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda.

"We are determined to use the minimum force possible," the general told a news conference. "The aim of the exercise is not to come to Rwanda to kill Rwandans. They are good enough at doing that themselves. We are here to assist Rwandans," he said at a press conference in the Rwandan capital.

Between April and July, following the April 4 plane crash death of the Rwandan president, up to one million people, mainly ethnic minority Tutsis and opposition Hutus, were killed in Rwanda as ethnic bloodletting swept the country.

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Russian troops kill 50 Tajik rebels in battle

MOSCOW (Agencies) — At least 50 Tajik guerrillas were killed in an attack on a Russian-manned post on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, a Russian Border Guard official said Friday.

Russian troops used Sukhoi-27 ground attack jets and attack helicopters to fight off the Muslim guerrillas' attack, General Nikolai Bortyuzha was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying at a news conference.

Seven Russian soldiers were also killed and 14 wounded in the attack, which was the deadliest in a year and prompted a sharp protest from the Russian Foreign Ministry, Russian officials said.

The five-hour battle at post

number 12 in the Moscovskiy region started late Thursday when the guerrillas, backed by Arab mercenaries and Afghans, shelled, then assaulted the position, Gen. Bortyuzha said.

The Russian troops were quickly reinforced by the 201st Motorised Division and small unit of Tajik volunteers, said Gen. Bortyuzha, assistant to the commander in chief of the Russian Frontier Guards Service.

Early Friday, the Russians launched air strikes on the Tajik guerrillas' positions.

The attack was halted and the post reinforced, said Colonel Constantine Plesko, first deputy chief at headquarters of the Russian Frontier Guard Service.

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President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin were immediately informed of the battle, Gen. Bortyuzha said, adding that he had been instructed by the president to reinforce his positions.

Russian troops man border posts along the mountainous Tajik-Afghan border to help the neo-Communist Tajik government keep militant Muslim opponents out of the country.

Russian Colonel Vladimir Novikov said around 500 rebels were involved in the overnight attack. He said the rebels were stepping up their attacks in an attempt to seize a strip of Tajik territory to announce the creation of a rebel government.

"This is not just Tajikistan's business," he said. "This is a challenge to Russia as well."

In a separate report from Tajikistan, ITAR-TASS news agency said 10 local policemen were killed and 20 wounded in a shootout with rebel forces 150 kilometres east of Dushanbe Thursday.

Following the overnight attack the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a protest to Kabul. A statement quoted by TASS urged the Afghan government to ensure that its territory was not used as a base for "provocations" against Russian Border Guards.

The statement said Kabul would bear full responsibility for any consequences should such attacks continue.

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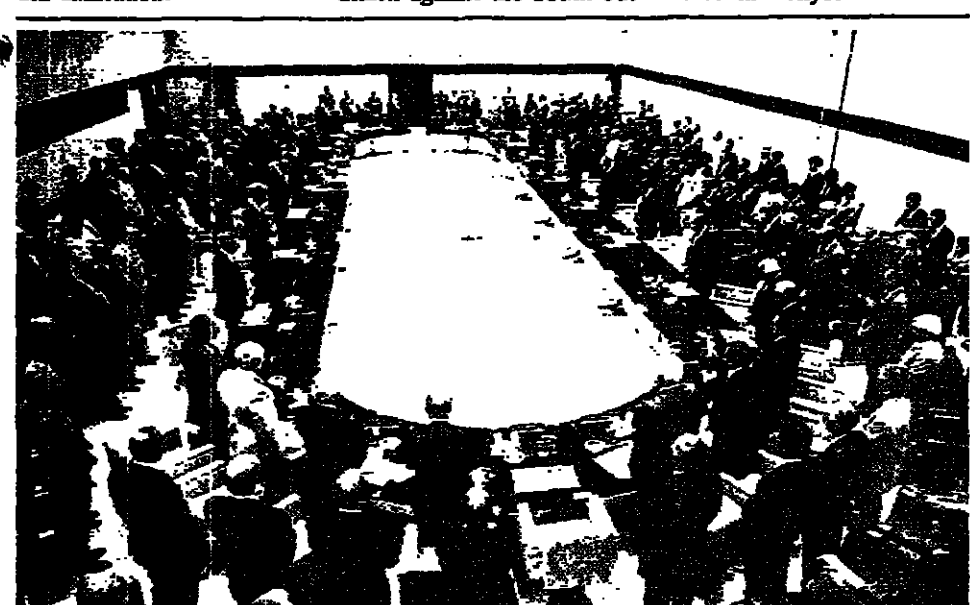
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NATO ambassadors stand still during a silent moment of commemoration meeting in memory of the late NATO

Secretary General Manfred Woerner at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Mr. Woerner died of intestinal

cancer aged 59 on Aug. 13 in Brussels (AFP photo)

NATO allies pay tribute to Woerner

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO allies paid tribute under leaden, rainy skies to Secretary-General Manfred Woerner Friday, saluting his courage in leading the Western alliance through the end of the cold war.

"The life of Manfred Woerner is witness to the crucial influence that one individual can exercise on the course of history," said NATO Acting Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino in a eulogy to Mr. Woerner, who died from cancer a week ago.

NATO, facing challenges in Bosnia and Eastern Europe, said Friday it would leave the question over who should succeed him at least until next month.

"There will be no formal consultations on the succession to Manfred Woerner before the beginning of September," a NATO spokesman said.

Flags of the 16-nation alliance, flown at half-mast at NATO Headquarters, were placed behind Mr. Woerner's coffin during the memorial service in a Brussels church. Mr. Woerner was 59.

The blue NATO flag, with the Atlantic Star, was gently draped over the casket, carried by pallbearers wearing black armbands.

Foreign and defence ministers representing dozens of countries from East and West attended the memorial service at the St Jacques-Sur-Coudenberg Church in central Brussels.

One notable absence from the phalanx of dignitaries was a minister from Russia, the nation Mr. Woerner tried to bring in from the cold following decades of hostility with Moscow.

Mr. Woerner's widow, Elise, sat in the front row of the church, near German President Roman Herzog who was there to pay tribute to the first NATO secretary-general drawn from his country.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brought a personal message from President Bill Clinton, who he said counted Mr. Woerner among America's firmest and finest friends.

"We remember Manfred as a man of vision and principle. He deeply believed that Europe's destiny depends upon a strong trans-Atlantic relationship," Mr. Christopher said.

"I remember seeing him in Aviano (Italy) last August, at an emergency meeting on Bosnia. He was gravely ill — too ill, I feared, to undertake the hard task at hand. I was certainly wrong," Mr. Christopher said.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd lavished praise on the man who succeeded Briton Lord Peter Carrington in the top NATO job in 1988.

"Manfred Woerner was the right man in the right place at the right time," Mr. Hurd told the mourners.

At an earlier private ceremony at NATO Headquarters

the chairman of the alliance's military committee hailed Mr. Woerner for his strategic skill in dealing with crises such as Bosnia, the first time NATO has ever fired a shot in anger.

"In military parlance, Manfred Woerner led this great alliance from the front for six tumultuous years with great vision and moral courage and for that we salute him with great affection," Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent said.

Mr. Woerner's death comes at a testing time as the Western alliance seeks to establish a new role after the cold war.

Diplomats said NATO could not afford much delay in choosing a successor to Mr. Woerner when the alliance's credibility is being constantly tested by the twists and turns of the war in Bosnia.

NATO also wants to make the decision in a way that avoids the public disputes that marred the 12-nation European Union's recent choice of a new president for the European Commission.

Thorvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian foreign minister and now a U.N. peace mediator in former Yugoslavia, has emerged as a possible front-runner for the NATO job, along with former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato.

There will be more ceremonies in Germany next week before Mr. Woerner is finally buried.

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Features

Dead Sea talks raise questions

(Continued from page 1)

The level of bilateral negotiations should not have been raised to the ministerial level and especially not on tourism, one senior negotiator told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Not only did Dr. Adwan's visit raise the level of negotiations on the bilateral level, it also redirected attention from the pressing "rights issues" to the "cooperation issues," not only in the eyes of the Israeli and international press but also on the negotiating table.

And it allowed the Israelis to register a point against the Jordanians because it highlighted an issue on which the Israeli side wanted to make the most progress because of its normalisation nature.

Damascus assails Barak comments

(Continued from page 1)

A general way, but not in details.

She said the talks focused on the security situation in the region as Israel moves toward peace with its Arab neighbours.

There are still dangers and security concerns in the Middle East and those need to be discussed as well with our American allies," she said.

Lebanon, reiterating its line at Middle East peace talks, said on Thursday only an Israeli pullout from all land it occupies in south and eastern Lebanon would bring peace with the Jewish state.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, in a speech marking the opening of a sports city in the eastern Be-

"This only played into the Israeli hand," one Jordanian negotiator contended. "All the attention became directed at the visit by the first cabinet minister to Israel rather than the core, yet still pending, negotiations on the common agenda between Israel and Jordan."

As the Israeli side chose the day after the end of the talks to announce their series of "achievements" on the Palestinian level, it was also evident that the "Jordan month" was over and the Israelis had been obviously delaying progress on the Jordanian track because it was the turn of the Palestinian one.

"This is the Israeli strategy in negotiations," one senior official said. "They divide the cake into pieces and then they start biting from each of the pieces separately."

Peres: Handover to begin

(Continued from page 1)

ism, taxation, social affairs, health and education — would be reached by next week.

The Norwegian foreign minister said he would push for the quick channelling of funds to the self-rule authority to show the Palestinians that "peace pays."

Norway has promised \$150 million (US\$21 million) to improve water supplies and electricity in Gaza, and about \$2 million to upgrade the police force. It paid another \$500,000 in cash to cover police salaries.

A senior Hamas official, Sheikh Ismael Haniyeh, condemned the visits of Mr. Peres and Mr. Godek, which took place under heavy security, as amounting to sacrilege.

"They (the self-rule authority) allow Peres and another foreigner to desecrate our soil by setting foot on the land of Gaza which is heavy with the blood of the martyrs of the intifada," he said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Shaath, meanwhile, said that safe passages were now expected to open on Sunday between the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, running across southern Israel.

On the same day, Palestinian policemen would take up their posts at the border crossings with Egypt and Jordan to share control with the Israelis, he told AFP. But they would need a week or two to be fully operational.

A split-up of the Kingdom's foreign debts, as of Dec. 31, 1993, showed its major creditors as:

Arab governments and agencies: \$540 million; Paris Club members \$4 billion; foreign banks \$220 million; multilateral institutions (the International Monetary Fund and World Bank affiliates, the European Development Bank and Arab funds) \$1.1 billion; bonds \$250 million and leasing contracts (Royal Jordanian aircraft) \$430 million.

The World Bank has said that Jordan has to cut its debt by half — to bring it level with about 75 per cent of the Kingdom's gross domestic product (GDP) to regain the creditworthiness it enjoyed before the economic crisis of 1988-89. Today, Jordan's foreign debts constitute about 135 per cent of its GDP.

Diplomats have said that their governments were supportive of Jordan's quest to reduce its debt burden and might be willing to offer debt relief, but there might not be a uniform approach. Each government will have to adopt various alternative formulas depending on their policies and regulations.

Carlos lawyer alleges plot

(Continued from page 1)

Kopp and Mr. Breguet on terrorist charges.

But Mr. Verges claimed the ministry "arranged" for Ms. Kopp and Mr. Breguet on trial for possessing arms and explosives and assaulting a police officer, to be given light sentences. In the event, Mr. Breguet got five years and Ms. Kopp four.

Mr. Verges warned that if the French government disputed his claim, he would name the sympathetic magistrate the ministry had put forward to preside over the trial.

Mr. Verges said his information came from Captain

Paul Barril, former head of Mr. Mitterrand's anti-terrorism cell, who had authorised him to make the accusation public.

"Did you know, Mr. Verges, that I was ordered to assassinate you?" the media-verse Verges, one of the two lawyers defending Carlos, quoted Capt. Barril as telling him in 1991.

Capt. Barril was not immediately available to confirm the lawyer's statements and Mr. Mitterrand's office said it had no comment.

The Venezuelan-born Carlos is in solitary confinement in a Paris jail.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171

The superhuman traffic police

By John Dales

A FEW weeks ago, following the tragic accident near Irbid which killed more than 30 people, I wrote an article for the Jordan Times (July 13) about road safety in Jordan. At around the same time, Ahmad Majdoubeh, in his "View from Academia," wrote two articles concerning Jordan's traffic police and the role they have in road safety and in traffic management generally. In "The traffic situation: What police can and cannot do" (Jordan Times May 26-27), Dr. Majdoubeh made a couple of police suggestions, but in "Traffic situation — the need for police action" (Jordan Times July 7), he seemed to have run out of patience and concluded by saying, "we have been beating around the bush long enough regarding the traffic situation". Although it might seem rather demanding on his part to expect major change in the five weeks between his articles, I'm sure we can all share in his frustration.

In essence, this frustration is based on the fact that although we are familiar with the presence of traffic police on the roads, they don't seem to be solving the problems. This is highlighted by the fact that all of us are routinely the victims (and also guilty) of traffic offences that go unpunished, and seemingly

unnoticed, by a policeman standing nearby. There are two main reasons why this is the case. Firstly, policing traffic offences is a difficult task; secondly, all of us (including the police) have become so used to accepting offences that should in fact be unacceptable that these offences have become part of the traffic culture.

When the police do pull over motorists, it is most commonly for speeding or to check either the physical state of the vehicle or the driver's licence and other documentation. These activities are important, but they are all characterised by their simplicity: lie in wait, point the speed gun, check the reading, and flag down if necessary; see a defect and stop the vehicle, or stop the vehicle and look for defects; pull over a motorist and examine his or her papers.

It is much more difficult, however, to discern a violation of traffic law that involves inconsiderate or dangerous driving, and harder yet to do anything about it if, for instance, it takes place in the middle of a busy junction. Consider the following examples. One motorist pulls out in front of another; was the resulting screech of tyres the fault of the first driver not looking before he pulled out, or of the second driver going too fast, or of both? On a dual carriageway, a car is weaving from lane to

lane, undertaking and overtaking, without breaking the speed limit and without seriously affecting any other vehicle; does that constitute dangerous driving? A little child is standing on its parent's lap in the front passenger seat with its head right up against the windscreen; is this the policeman's responsibility or the parent's? A wedding cavalcade is driving along with people hanging out of car windows, blaring their horns, blocking a major road, confusing other drivers; is this just fun or is it a menace?

These and similar situations require split-second judgement from a policeman who, in addition, has to weigh up the pros and cons of giving chase to the offender and then risking being ignored, told to mind his own business or called a kill-joy. As a result, those nagging acts of bad and thoughtless driving which are the constant bane of Jordanian driving life are those which most often go unpunished.

The fact that they are seldom punished, of course, means that they are more commonly practised and that, as I have indicated, they have become part of the driving culture. That is to say, if you or I were stopped and fined for pulling out in front of another vehicle instead of waiting at a stop sign we would be absolutely shocked. So

what if there was a screen of tyres, a bit of swearing and a lot of booting? There was no crash and no-one was hurt. It happens all the time. "What's the problem, officer?"

What indeed? Like the criminal who thinks that the only real crime is getting caught, we are in danger of assuming that it can't be bad driving if it doesn't cause a crash. No accident: no problem. It's part of a culture which we either readily or reluctantly accept and we find ourselves in a vicious circle where poor enforcement leads to less respect for traffic law and hence still less enforcement.

Is there a way of this vicious circle? Well, when two problems feed upon each other, the solution of one can break the cycle. I wouldn't recommend anyone to tackle Jordan's driving culture head-on, but even if someone could and did, I wouldn't care to wait for any traffic and road safety benefits to trickle through. On the other hand, effective change can, and indeed must, take place concerning the activities of the traffic police.

That said, there is only one way in which the traffic police can change the status quo, or indeed have the right to do so. And that is by being different: By refusing to accept the culture; by not practising it themselves; and by knowing what the

alternative is. In this, they must truly become supermen. This term is commonly used to describe those with miraculous powers but, more accurately, to be superhuman means to exceed normal human ability or experience. This is exactly what the traffic police must do. Unlike we ordinary mortals, they must know traffic law inside out, practice it themselves and be experienced in enforcing all parts of it.

So long as their uniforms remain the main thing that distinguishes the traffic police from the general public there will and can be no progress. If they react to bad driving with the same shrug as the public does and if, what's more, they drive as badly as we do, they will have neither the judgement nor the moral authority to enforce the traffic law. What is urgently required, therefore, is greatly improved training and motivation, the former of which would itself help to increase the latter. With these, the traffic police will find themselves properly equipped to carry out the tasks we ought to expect of them.

More and better training for Jordan's traffic police must be a top priority. At the present time their failings are obvious to both the expert and inexperienced eye. It is clear to the former, for instance, that the policemen who frequently take over manual control of traf-

fic lights at busy junctions do not, unfortunately, know how to help traffic flow more efficiently. You don't have to be an expert, though, to observe that it takes more than having a hand to wave and a whistle to blow to make an effective traffic manager; that a circle can still become clogged, no matter how many policemen are gathered under the nearest shade; and that acts of dangerous driving will persist so long as we feel we can do them under a policeman's nose without punishment.

For such reasons, and despite the good work they do undertake, traffic policemen often come in for bad press. This they barely deserve, though, as many of their shortcomings aren't really their own fault. We should perhaps give them a break; but they're much more urgently in need of a break from their traffic department chiefs. To the latter I say that your men may be ready and willing, but until they're properly trained, they'll never be properly able. Give them that training and you give them the chance to become supermen.

Jordan's beleaguered road users could use a hero or two.

The writer is a British traffic engineer working in Jordan. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Stopping the second 'exodus'

By Michael Dynes

The appalling dilemmas facing Labour's post-war government in trying to block illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine before the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 are well recorded. But just what desperate measures the government was prepared to countenance to staunch the flow is revealed by secret documents from the Cabinet Office which were shown exclusively to The Times by the Public Record Office.

The documents show the Foreign Office trying to stop the balance of Arab and Jew in the population of Palestine being altered by illegal immigration. This was to embroil the pugnacious Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, in a feud with Zionists and their sympathisers in Britain and abroad which would outlive Labour's term of office.

A joint intelligence committee report dated April 1947 (shortly after Britain

had decided to hand over the Palestinian problem to the United Nations) warned that "every effort will be made by the Jewish Agency to increase the flow of illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine."

The report shows how badly the government was rattled by the scale of the problem. It estimated that 35,000 Jews in Europe were waiting for immediate embarkation to Palestine. In the American zone of Germany alone, a further 140,000 were awaiting passage at a later date. The British administration in Palestine could not cope with such a surge.

Repeated attempts failed to persuade the French government to abolish the transit quota limiting the number of Jews travelling across France. "This quota, coupled with the laxity in controlling departures from the south of France, constitutes a 'running sore'," one Cabinet Office document said.

Similar representations were made in Washington, but, the document added: "It

was evident that we shall get nowhere with the state department." The cabinet was particularly anxious about a report that U.S. Political Action Committee for Palestine was calling on President Truman to lend-lease a number of DC4 transport aircraft to fly illegal immigrants to Palestine in an "Exodus by Air" operation.

In the absence of any support from America and France, Britain was forced to rely heavily on M15 and M16 to ships being used to run the Royal Navy's blockade of Palestinian waters. By the summer of 1947, they had identified 37 ships hired by Jewish organisers, many of which flew the Panamanian flag.

One of the files held by the Public Record Office is still being treated as too sensitive to release, despite last year's open government initiative. It deals with the Royal Navy's boarding of the refugee ship Exodus, which caused a storm of protest around the world and was the

subject of a novel by Leon Uris.

In addition, a blacklist was compiled of everyone involved in providing ships, supplies or captains for the illicit traffic, in an attempt to delay or deny the vessels services.

Strenuous efforts by the Foreign Office succeeded in persuading the Panamanian chargé d'affaires in London to revoke registry of some vessels. But such diplomatic efforts had little impact on the flow of illegal immigrants. In an act of desperation, the Cabinet Office dispatched a cable to its diplomats, entreating them to "use whatever language appears to you most appropriate" to convince other governments that "this traffic... is likely to have unfortunate effects on our relations with them."

But the documents acknowledge that the task was impossible. "The immigrants were often in possession of correct passports and visas valid for entry to countries such as Costa Rica and Pana-

ma." Consequently, the port authorities in America, France, Italy and Romania could do little to prevent embarkation, even if they had wanted to.

Faced with a desperate situation the Cabinet debated desperate measures. A plan to introduce legislation giving the British government power to stop and search any vessel on the high seas suspected for carrying Jewish immigrants was abandoned when legal advisers warned that such action would violate international law, and would probably provoke other countries into stopping British ships in retaliation. A similar plan to force Lloyds to withhold insurance was abandoned when it became clear that alternative cover could be obtained elsewhere.

By May, the Cabinet Office's illegal immigration committee had decided to use the BBC to counter what it called the propaganda of the Jewish Agency. "Many Jews in Europe are being enticed to Palestine with stories of

milk and honey," said a position paper. "The committee has agreed on factual information to be put on the BBC European broadcast to counter this propaganda." The information included news items explaining that "Palestine today is a land of outrage and strife," and that "there are many Jews in Palestine who are eager to return to Europe but they dare not do so for fear of reprisals by terrorists."

By the time the Palestinian mandate had been surrendered to the U.N. in May 1948, when the state of Israel was proclaimed, Britain had absorbed 200,000 Jewish immigrants at home and had allowed 500,000 legal immigrants to enter Palestine. But Britain's search for a continuing role in the Middle East and the Foreign and Colonial Office's tilt towards the Arabs meant that Bevin found himself forever branded an anti-Semite.

The Times

South African workers feel cold-shouldered by new government

By Rich Mkhondo

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's black workers, feeling cold-shouldered by the government they voted for, are turning to strike action to get the "better life for all" pledged by Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC).

The militant mood is a threat to efforts by the Mandela government to achieve the economic growth it sees as the best way of providing that better life.

Since Mr. Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president on May 10, walkouts in the motor, metal, paper and oil industries and in the civil service have spoiled hopes that the post-apartheid era would usher in calm on the labour front.

Already this year more working hours have been lost through strikes than in any year since 1987, union officials said.

More than 300,000 mining workers are now being asked whether they want to strike over a pay dispute with owners of the crucial coal and gold industries. The result is expected by August 28.

South African miners have not officially struck since 1987, during the dark days of apartheid, when the mine union leader was Cyril Ramaphosa, now the ANC's secretary-general and a central figure in the new South African establishment.

The new wave of labour revolt may look like disloyalty so soon after the ANC has assumed power

from the long-dominant white minority, but steel worker Munuzeli Mpondo sums up the mood:

"We do not care about the economy. We want something now, not tomorrow or next year."

"We voted for change, but nothing seems to be changing, in our lives, work places, homes, and in all spheres of life," Mr. Mpondo said.

The government and labour analysts are scratching their heads over the surging militancy, which cost 1.2 million man-hours between April and June this year, compared to 700,000 in the same period last year and 650,000 in 1992.

The experts cite a variety of causes, saying workers have unrealistic expectations after an ANC election victory, and that in a post-apartheid era there is increased worker sensitivity to actual or perceived racism or unequal treatment.

There are also angry rumblings over the fat pay packets given to the new elite: members of parliament earn 193,000 rand (\$54,000) per year and cabinet ministers 450,000 rand (\$125,000).

Many mine workers get 6,000 rand (\$1,600) a year. "The ANC government is holding a tiger by the tail and that is dangerous. They more than anyone else should realise that strikes will affect economic growth, something that the new government can ill afford at this stage," said Khulu Sibiba, editor of City Press, a weekly newspaper aimed at black readers.

But the government should not be surprised, say Sam Shilowa, leader of the umbrella Congress of South African Trade Unions. "In a country like South Africa, with obscene disparities, where workers have been denied their basic human rights, current developments are hardly surprising," he said. "Workers are determined that the emerging economic upswing, and the apartheid dividend which not only benefits the rich at the expense of the poor. They are sick and tired of being asked to tighten their belts," he added. "Workers expect to see political democracy trans-



President Mandela seems to have fallen from grace among his country's workers only 100 days after taking office (AFP photo)

lated into economic democracy at the workplace. They don't just want to hold a ballot paper every five years."

Labour analysts said the government was in an invidious position. "If the government is seen to back worker demands, business confidence will plummet. If it is seen to back the employers, they run the risk of losing votes in future elections," one said.

Mr. Mandela's government has said it will do what it can to help resolve strikes, but will not interfere with the right to stop work.

Dollar still under attack

LONDON (Agencies) — The dollar failed to break out of its downward spiral Friday amid worries over U.S.-Japan trade relations and new fears that German interest rates will remain unchanged for some time.

It began its drop Thursday after Germany's Bundesbank decided to leave key interest rates unchanged for at least another two weeks. Traders had hoped for a rate cut.

Then news that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan neared 26 per cent in June hit the market, further depressing the currency.

On Friday afternoon, Bundesbank Vice President Johann Wilhelm said the central bank had fixed a repo rate — often allowed to float — in order to dampen interest-rate speculation.

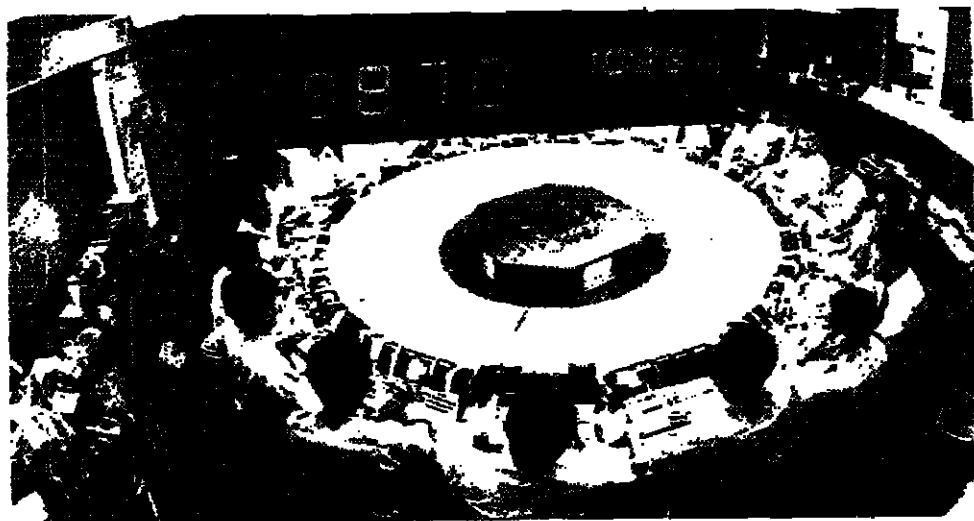
The U.S. currency ended

the week nearly two pence and two yen lower than last Friday after failing to respond positively to the U.S. Federal Reserve's (Fed's) credit tightening on Tuesday.

"Everyone's got the idea it's just going to go lower now, particularly with Buba (Bundesbank) not cutting and its weak performance after the Fed rate hike," a trader at a German bank in London said.

The Federal Reserve hiked U.S. interest rates by a half a percentage point but the effects were soon stifled when Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman resigned over the Whitewater affair and fears emerged that the higher rates might seriously hurt the U.S. economy.

"What the market will



An electrical board flashes the current trading foreign exchange market in Tokyo. The U.S. dollar opened at 98.69 yen, 1.19 yen lower than the previous finish. (AFP photo)

want to see are signs the administration is getting over Whitewater and pushing on with the things it needs to do ahead of the November (congressional) elections," said Michael Pratt, senior bond and currency analyst at Kidder Peabody in London.

Traders saw little prospect of a let-up in the selling pres-

sure currently hitting the dollar against the yen ahead of a Sept. 30 deadline after which Washington may enforce trade sanctions on Japan if there is no accord.

President Bill Clinton said Friday he would try to persuade the Federal Reserve to change its monetary policy if the economy begins to drag,

but intends to remain independent at the moment.

"They (the Fed) are worried about inflation," he said. "When it is apparent to me that the drag on the economy will be more about slowing the economy down than stopping inflation, I will do what I can to influence that policy," he said.

India frees rupee on current account to end bottlenecks

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India Friday made the rupee fully convertible, on current account, removing all restrictions on the currency's conversion for overseas travel, medical expenses, gifts and services for Indian citizens.

The International Monetary Fund has been informed of the move by the government of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the central bank said in a statement.

The RBI delegated powers to banks to allow remittances for travel, studies, medical expenses, gifts and services for overseas Indians and said it will "decide favourably" on all requests for currency conversions for other needs.

"There are indicative limits up to which the authorised dealers (banks) can make available exchange facilities without RBI's approval," the central bank said.

The currency relaxation, however, does not apply to

transactions on the capital account, but the rupee has been now made fully convertible on the current account, RBI officials said.

"It does not extend to transactions on capital account, and any outflow of funds apart from those in the current account would require approval of the Indian government," an RBI official said.

The central bank said the currency relaxation will also permit overseas Indians to repatriate interest earned on deposits from Oct. 1. Previous RBI regulations did not allow full repatriation of interest. "The principal amount will continue to be non-repatriable," the RBI said.

Overseas corporate bodies and people of Indian origin or nationality will also be able to repatriate investment income in a phased manner over a three-year period, the RBI said, adding that the remittances would be subject to local taxes.

"It was a long-felt demand to remove such bottlenecks and irritants from the currency," said economist Sanjeev Verma on the full-float of the rupee on current account.

India ordered partial convertibility of the rupee on current account last year, in line with sweeping reforms aimed at shedding four decades of quasi-socialist insulation from its economy and luring foreign capital to the country.

The rupee's float was the most radical measure in the market-friendly 1993-94 budget package, unveiled in February 1993 by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic liberalisation programme of 1992.

The government says the free-moving rupee would stimulate overseas sales. The rupee initially fluctuated between 31 and 31.50 to the dollar after the partial float last year but gained stature against the greenback in the following days.

Dollar expected to come under renewed downward pressure

The following report, covering the period from Thursday Aug. 11, 1994 until Wednesday Aug. 17, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental View: After being weakened in response to interest rate hikes in Europe, the dollar got a boost with the Fed announcing a 0.5 per cent increase in the funds and discount rates. But we expect the dollar to come under renewed downward pressure in coming quarters, despite prospects for another rate increase later this year or early next year.

Against a backdrop of weak confidence in U.S. foreign policy and ongoing trade and capital account deficits, marginally higher U.S. interest rates are likely to offer scant attraction to foreign investors, especially Japanese, who have suffered massive currency losses on their dollar assets. We maintain 12-month targets of DM/\$ and JPY/\$ 95.

Technical View: After a steady uptrend over the past few weeks, the U.S. dollar index is now stuck in a trading range between 89.00-92.00. Additionally, while the U.S. dollar came under pressure the previous Wednesday on interest rate increases in Italy and Sweden the index managed to hold within that trading band.

Short term momentum measures are still constructive, suggesting that the upper band of the trading range will most likely be penetrated. At the same time, medium term momentum measures are still improving and indicate that a bottom is forming but will most likely take a test of the recent lows (near the 87.00 level) before a firm bottom is established.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The dollar continued to show strength against the yen and trade above 100 yen after the mid-July plunge to the 96 yen level. The dollar lost ground to the DM during the market uncertainty of the last week, but has been relatively steady against the yen. The dollar could get an additional bounce from the rate hike by the Fed. This, combined with signs of a diminishing trade surplus in Japan and a new stance by U.S. economic officials to talk up the dollar has prompted analysts to suggest that the dollar may have bottomed against the yen.

We remain cautious on the dollar for a number of reasons:

- (1) Questions remain about U.S. foreign policy leadership;
- (2) Capital outflows from the U.S. are likely to persist, even with higher U.S. rates; and
- (3) The U.S. trade and current account deficit is likely to remain around 2 per cent of GDP, larger than the appetite of foreigners for U.S. assets.

Dollar weakness is likely to require persistent Bank of Japan dollar-buying intervention in coming quarters in order to make up for the private sector's unwillingness to finance ongoing U.S. deficits. We maintain our forecast for the yen to reach

JPY/\$ in 12-months time.

Technical View: Although last week's marginal loss of 0.2 per cent to 100.30 JPY/\$ was paltry, the Japanese yen remains locked in a long term uptrend. At the same time, the yen's short term, four week downtrend seems to be coming to an end. This is indicated by short term momentum measures which are working off an overbought condition.

Moreover, sentiment measures have become oversold for the first time in seven weeks. However, we still believe that a move toward the 101.40 area which is strong support and possibly a move towards 106-112 will develop before the downtrend (that started 4 weeks ago) is finally broken. Resistance does exist at 97.20 and then below 93.00.

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The DM was the big beneficiary of the turbulence in the markets following the unexpected hike in Swedish and Italian interest rates. The dollar dropped from the week's high of DM 1.58 to DM 1.55 and continued to trade in the DM 1.55-1.56 range. The DM's current strength against the dollar is attributed to the market's search for safety in the DM rather than any specific immediate concern about the dollar. In fact the DM gained against most currencies — with the Swedish krona and the Italian lira falling sharply. The dollar got a little boost from the 50 BP hike by the Fed.

However, risks of dollar weakness in coming quarters appear considerable against a backdrop of weak confidence in U.S. foreign policy and prospects for ongoing deficits in U.S. trade and capital accounts.

Indications that Germany is nearing the end of its cycle of monetary easing are also a negative for the dollar. Continued strong economic performance in Germany calls into question whether the discount rate to be cut sometime in October, but continued strong economic data would suggest that German rates have already bottomed.

With German inflation likely to fall to close to 2 per cent next year, real interest rates in Germany are likely to remain highly competitive with rates in the U.S., which should help keep the Deutschmark strong. We continue to look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.50 level in 12 months.

Technical View: After being locked in a trading range between 1.58 and 1.60 DM/\$ from late July-early August, the Deutschmark broke this trading band decisively Wednesday, Aug. 10. For the week ended Aug. 12, the Deutschmark gained 1.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar to 1.56 DM/\$. It is currently trading within that range. It was also the second strongest currency against the U.S. dollar among the six currencies that we follow.

Short term momentum measures, which are still considered overbought, have now rolled over, suggesting that a test of support between 1.48-1.52 DM/\$ is probable over the next few weeks. Sentiment measures have also moved into oversold levels. Moreover, medium term momentum measures are also confirming this recent gain and a move towards

support levels is likely needed before a top is firmly in place. Resistance exists at 1.60 and 1.616.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound held steady against the dollar but lost ground to the DM. In the wake of the general surge in the DM, the pound traded during the week in the US\$1.53-1.54 range but dropped to DM/GBP 2.40. From the beginning of the year, the pound has dropped 6 per cent against the DM. The pound could weaken a little against the dollar following the U.S. rates hike by the Fed. However, hikes in U.K. base rates seem around the corner with the Bank of England governor suggesting that rate hikes are preferable "sooner rather than later."

We expect a 50 BP rate hike in October. Economic numbers due out this week are expected to provide further evidence that inflation is not a problem yet. This should augur well for the pound. With U.K. posting strong GDP growth with low inflation, we maintain our forecast for the pound to appreciate to 1.60 U.S.\$ in six to twelve months time.

Technical View: On the week, the pound gained .3 per cent to 1.547 against the U.S. dollar. At present, it is at 1.539 U.S.\$/GBP. Although weak, the British pound is now stuck in a trading band between 1.547 and 1.527. Short term momentum measures are still oversold and sentiment still remains oversold to indicate that a move towards its recent July 12th high of 1.57 U.S.\$/GBP is mounting.

However, we still believe that a move towards that level and possibly toward resistance of 1.586 would only serve to create a top. Although the currency could move higher towards the April 1993 high of 1.59 U.S.\$/GBP, due to the continuing constructive medium term background it would still be part of the big topping process. Support exists at 1.51 U.S.\$/GBP and then a move towards the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 which is second support.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc came into its own this week as a safe haven during the turmoil in currency markets following the Swedish and Italian rate hikes. Against the dollar, the Swiss franc strengthened, trading as high as SF/USD 1.30. Against the DM, the Swiss franc held steady at SF/DM 0.84 with the DM also benefiting from the market uncertainty. CPI numbers indicate that consumer price inflation continues to moderate. The U.S. interest rate hike should help the dollar gain some ground against the Swiss franc.

In the longer-run, our forecast calls for the franc to trade higher against the dollar, to SF/U.S.\$1.26 in twelve months. This is based on our forecast for continued mark strength against the U.S.\$ and the franc holding steady against the mark. Swiss authorities are expected to match a possible future German rate cut to avoid any upward pressure on the franc. That should help the franc hold the line against the mark.

Technical View: The Swiss franc gained 2.1 per cent versus the dollar for the week ended Aug. 12. In fact, it had the strongest return among the six currencies that we monitor. It has now rallied for three consecutive weeks, gaining 3.4 per cent. The biggest thrust to the upside came on Thursday, Aug. 11, as the Swiss franc rallied to 1.306 from 1.337 SF/U.S.\$.

Short term momentum measures which were previously overbought are now beginning to work off this overbought condition which supports the idea that a move towards the 1.23-1.26 resistance area is more likely over the course of the near term. Moreover, short term sentiment has improved and is oversold. Support still exists at 1.34 and then at 1.38-1.39 SF/U.S.\$.

Iran to export liquefied gas to South Korea

TEHRAN (R) — Iran will start exporting 500,000 tonnes of liquefied gas per year to South Korea from the start of 1995, a senior official was quoted as saying.

"The exports, under a deal with the South Korean firm Daewoo, are worth \$65 million a year, Ahmad Rahgozar, deputy oil minister and head of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company, said in an interview printed in Resalat newspaper.

He said the deal was part of advanced sales of the products of Iran's biggest petrochemical plant at Bandar Imam Khomeini on the Gulf coast whose second phase was inaugurated this month.

The amount of gas exports could double to one million tonnes a year — the entire output of the plant's first phase which came on stream in 1990 — if the two sides agree, he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Aquarius late this evening comes too late to have much effect on your day but the Moon Square to Pluto reveals a secret, stifles emotions and makes people uneasy. Beware.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look over your environment and make plans for improvement. Make contacts which will improve your social life in the near future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure not to disturb anyone who has power over your affairs or you could regret it later. Safeguard your reputation from harm.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you first investigate any new project you want to engage in. Spend your money wisely so you will have some in reserve.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Some family members may not agree with your views now, so try to understand them better and you will have harmony at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to look over your business records and make sure everything is in proper order. Think constructively about a new idea.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take added steps to improve your environ-

ment. Show more interest in civic affairs and again added respect by the activities you participate in.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make long-range plans which could give you added income in the days ahead. Plan how to gain your most cherished aims you desire.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show appreciation to those who have done you favours in the past. Be sure to keep promises you have made to others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are filled with new ideas but you have to study them better before you put them into operation to prevent a complete failure.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is not a good day for serious talks with allies, since they are busy with other things. Be more willing to cooperate with others.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't try to force your ideas and views on others and avoid getting unexpected rebuffs. Express happiness with congenial friends.

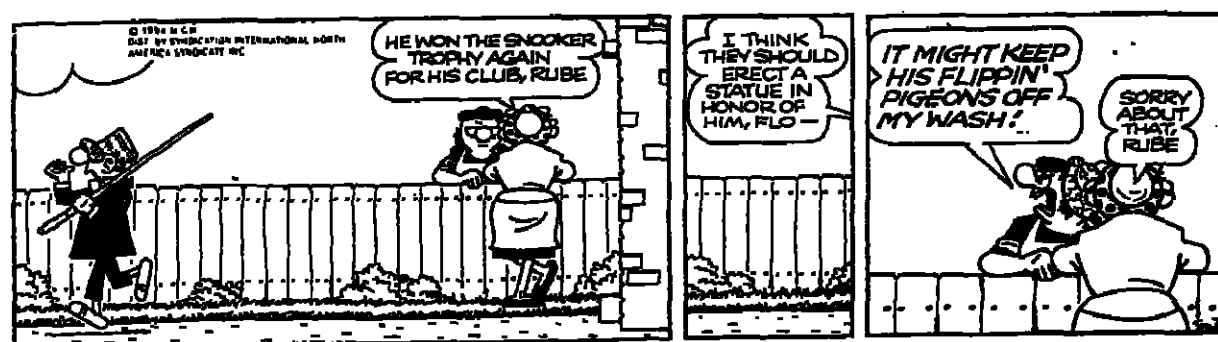
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make plans to have more favourable conditions around you in the days ahead. The evening is fine for social activities which you enjoy.

Birthstone of August:
Peridot — Golden Quartz

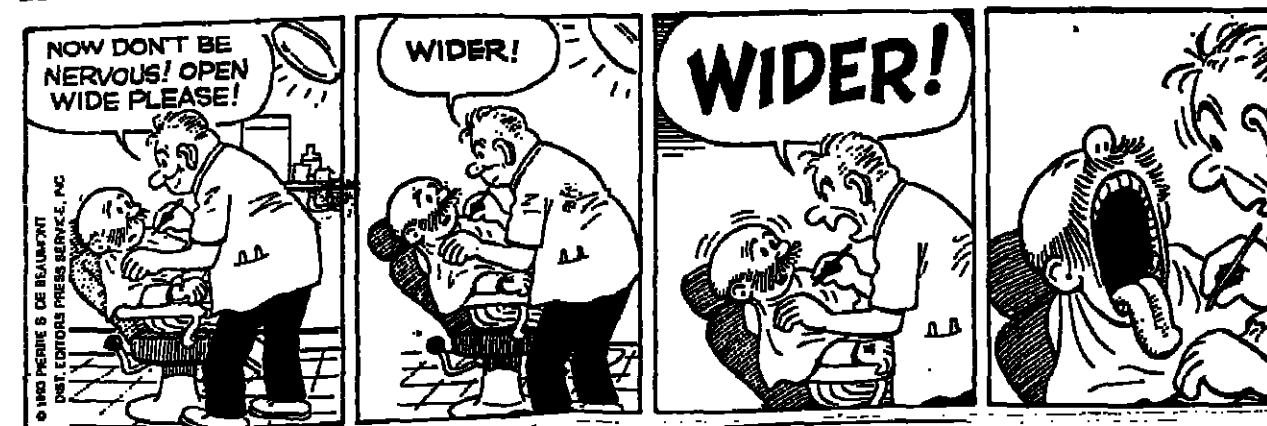
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



chic. simple.

Pioneer designers
Gold & Gems Jewellery

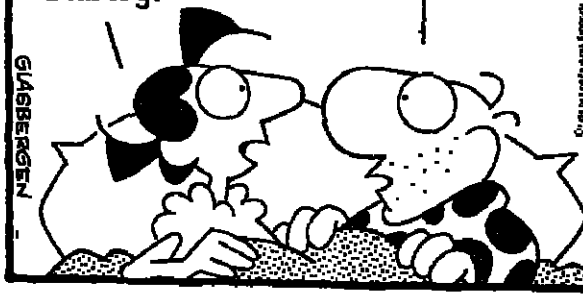
DAJANI'S

Amra Hotel Shops, 6th Circle, Amman
Since 1988

Rio de Janeiro
Since 1975

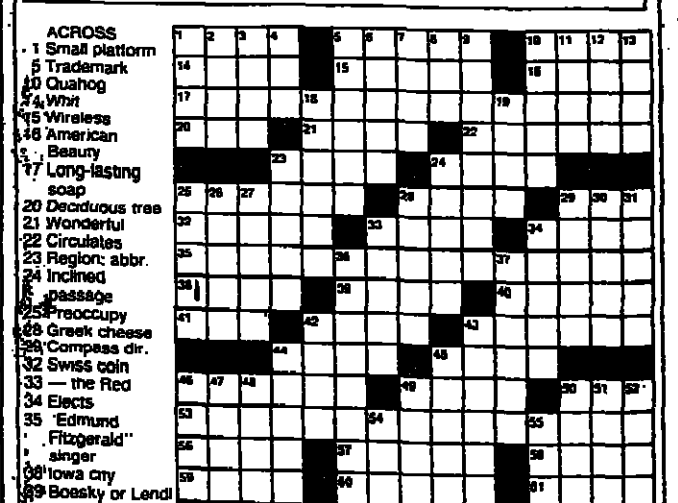
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Did you sleep well, Stanley?
How should I know? I was asleep at the time!



Jumble not received

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins



ACROSS
1 Small platform
5 Trademark
10 Quahog
14 WHI
15 Wireless
16 American
17 Beauty
20 soap
21 Wonderful
22 Circles
23 Region abbr.
24 Inclined
25 passage
26 occupy
28 Great cheese
29 Compass dir.
32 Swiss coin
33 — the Red
34 Elects
35 "Edmund" singer
36 Boatsky or Land
37 Love in Milan
41 Homocapitan
42 Prison
43 Affirmations
44 Towel word
45 "Heard" —
46 drop
47 Arctic dweller
48 Leave out
49 Greenpan's bd.
50 Tennison's charges
51 Revolver man
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Queen declares Commonwealth Games open; competition begins

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Pigeons flew as young girls danced amid multi-coloured banners, mounties rode their horses to a musical accompaniment. Queen Elizabeth II delivered her message in French and English.

And the crowd heartily cheered the return of South Africa.

So began the XV Commonwealth Games Thursday as 3,350 athletes from a record 64 nations began 10 days of competition in this charming provincial capital on the southern tip of British Columbia's Vancouver Island.

The Jet's of Canada's Snowbirds precision flying team roared in tight formation over the makeshift stadium at the University of Victoria, where some 33,500 people gathered to watch the queen's opening of the games. An estimated 500 million watched on television worldwide.

Competition began today in seven sports, including swimming. Some of the top swimmers in the world are entered.

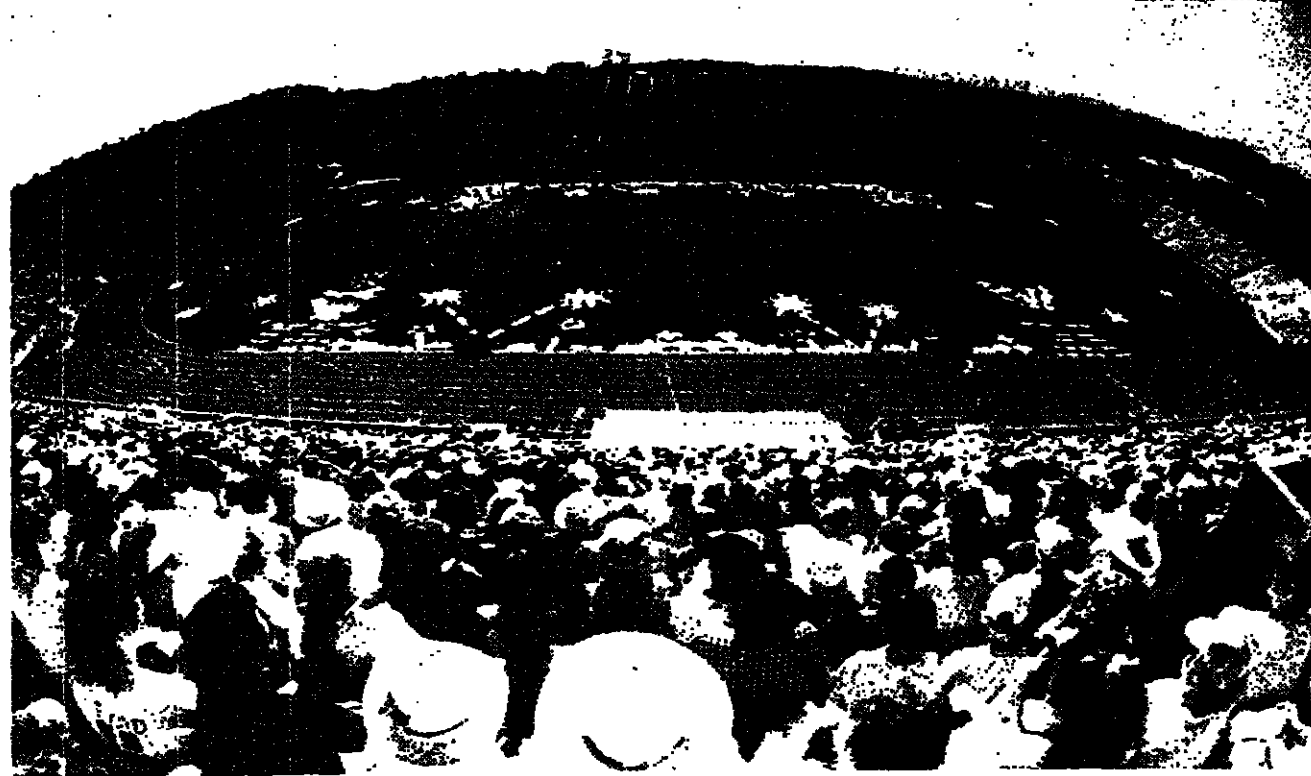
Australian Hayley Lewis will try to add to the five gold medals she won four years ago in Auckland, New Zealand.

Her countryman, Phil Rogers, the short course world record-holder, will go against 200 champion Jon Cleveland of Canada and favored Nick Gillingham of England in the 100 breaststroke.

Another Australian, Kieren Perkins, who holds the world record at 800 and 1,500 metres, goes in the 200 freestyle.

The opening day of competition also includes badminton, boxing, gymnastics, lawn bowls, wrestling and shooting. Track and field starts Monday and weightlifting begins Tuesday.

The 2-hour opening ceremony was produced by Jacques Lemay, who also put together the opening extravaganza for the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988. Thursday's themes were tied to the native heritage of Vancouver Island, and of the different cultures of the people of Canada.



Spectators watch the opening ceremonies of the XV Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia (AFP photo)

when majority blacks were granted equal status.

The beaming athletes and officials waved tiny flags from their newly integrated land.

The athletes waved as they walked past the queen. Only the delegation from Togo bowed to her.

Great Britain is represented by four delegations — from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, whose men wore blue and red plaid kilts as they marched around the track.

Canadian Biathlete Myriam Bedard, a two-time gold medal winner in the winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway, brought the queen's baton into the stadium on roller blades, using ski poles to propel herself around the track.

The baton, designed by three artists from the three native "first nations" of Vancouver Island, left Buckingham Palace in London on March 14 and was taken to all

regions of the Commonwealth.

After the baton was presented to the queen, she read the message it contained declaring the games officially open.

"We know that we can expect 10 days of fine sporting achievement at the venues, the traditional comradeship of the games' village and the excitement and happiness that comes from the meeting of athletes from all parts of the Commonwealth," the queen said.

"I greatly look forward to my stay here and wish you all a successful and joyful games."

The queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, entered the stadium in a 1939 Buick convertible.

They joined their son, Prince Edward, the president of the Commonwealth Federation; Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and other dignitaries to watch the ceremony.

money.

Sir Roger Bannister, who ran the first sub-4-minute mile in 1954, and his great rival, John Landy of Australia, raised the Commonwealth flag.

The loudest cheers were for the host team, whose members tossed frisbees into the crowd.

New Zealand, which hosted the Commonwealth games four years ago, led the parade.

The Australian delegation was led by a group of disabled athletes, a response to comments by the head of the team that such athletes were an "embarrassment" to the games.

Arthur Tunstall later apologized and said his remarks were taken out of context.

Hong Kong made its final appearance in the games, its delegation waving politely. Hong Kong is to be ceded to China in 1997.

UCI threatens cyclists with tougher doping penalties

1st Tour of China race set to begin

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — The International Cycling Union (UCI) has confirmed tougher penalties for doping.

The definitive version of the anti-doping regulations, first announced provisionally in May, come into effect from November 1," the UCI executive board said in a statement issued Friday.

The new rules, already in effect on a provisional basis, do away with suspended sentences for professionals. Now they can be banned for six months to a year for a first offence.

They can be suspended for one to two years for a second infringement and banned from the sport for a third offence. All professional offences carry fines in Swiss francs and loss of ranking points.

The punishment for amateurs in similar suspensions but without fines.

For lesser substances there are penalties of three months maximum, six to 12 months, and exclusion. If a rider is found positive more than once in a short space of time for using the same substance or the same method it will be considered as one offence.

Cycling has joined other sports by announcing that from 1996 there will be a common racing licence for professionals and amateurs.

The 1996 road team time trial championships have been switched to Switzerland because tiny Monaco where they were due to be held faced big traffic problems.

Monaco will still stage the professional road race and the English City of Manchester's new Velodrome will house the track racing in 1996, the next Olympic year.

The UCI have awarded the western Australian city of Perth the 1997 world track championships, while San Sebastian in northern Spain will hold the road championships that year.

The motor-paced, first run as a world championship in 1895, and the tandem sprint

"I realise the cyclists won't be in Tour de France shape, but I talked with a lot of teams during Tour de France this year, and I'm sure there will be a lot of interest," said Plant, the former Olympic speedskater. "I think we can get some of the top riders and teams in the world."

Plant estimated the race's yearly budget at \$6.5 million, similar he said to the annual budget of the Tour D'upont, the most prestigious cycling event in North America.

The Tour of China will be contested near the end of the season, following the final World Cup event and when the season's remaining events are primarily held in Australia.

The race, which has a three-year contract, will be sanctioned as an international open race, which allows a percentage of amateur to compete.

Plant will soon make his fifth trip to China in the last four months to begin course selections. Exact race dates, the name of the major corporate sponsor, prize money structure and other details are expected to be announced at a press conference in Hong Kong in November, Plant said.

According to Plant, who was a co-founder of the Tour de Trump (the Tour D'upont's predecessor) in 1989, the Tour of China will begin in Hong Kong and progress into Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Beijing.

will be dropped from the world track championships from next year.

They will be replaced by Madison racing and an Olympic sprint.

Madison, named after New York's Madison Square gardens where it was popularised, is a race between teams of two with one partner racing while the other rests, as they try to gain laps and sprint for points. It is the main event in winter six-day

tracking racing.

The Olympic sprint is contested by three riders. The first two each race a lap and pull out, leaving the third to set a time on his lap. The result is based on aggregate times from a series of races.

The number of world titles is being cut from 78 to 55 and from 1997 the junior road race will be run with the men's and women's road championships.

China warns of 'political troubles' for Asian Games over inviting Taiwan president

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government Friday warned if a political storm if Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui was allowed to visit Asia's biggest sporting event, to be held in Hiroshima in October.

The invitation to Lee from the Olympic Council of Asia to the 12th Asian Games has also embarrassed the host nation. The Japanese government was reported to have expressed the hope that Lee stays away to avoid China-Taiwan confrontation at the showcase event.

"If Lee Teng-hui is invited, there will be political troubles at the sporting games," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said. But the spokesman disputed whether Lee had been asked.

"As far as we know, the organising committee of the Hiroshima Asian Games has decided to invite Lee Teng-hui," he said.

According to the Tokyo press, Chinese President Jiang Zemin warned Japanese politician Koichi Kato Wednesday that Beijing did not want Taiwan's leaders welcomed in Hiroshima.

The Japanese government hopes Lee will decide not to visit the games which are to be held in Hiroshima from October 2-16, a government source in Tokyo said.

The source was quoted by Jiji Press as saying that in view of China's objections, the government expected the Taiwanese president not to accept.

In Taipei, presidential spokesman Raymond Tai

told reporters that a check was being carried out to see if Lee was invited. The foreign ministry said it was "never informed" of an invitation.

But China's Olympic Committee secretary general, Wei Jichang, who is in Taipei for an international volleyball tournament, confirmed that an invitation was extended by OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait.

"I learned about it in July and duly protested," Wei said. He described the invitation as "improper."

The Hiroshima authorities and national government have spent hundreds of millions of dollars preparing for Asia's biggest sporting event. They are anxious to avoid political controversies that have dogged previous games.

In 1990, China hosted the games when still facing international reproach over the Tiananmen Square massacre the previous year. There was also a dispute over Iraqi participation because of the Kuwait invasion in August 1990.

But the Japanese source said that it was difficult for Tokyo to reject Lee's entry into the country if he decided to go.

International sports officials said OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad issued the invitation, to the consternation of both the Chinese and Japanese authorities.

Sheikh Ahmad has strong links with Taiwan and has met Lee twice.

Japan stopped all high-

Palestine may rescue Asia Games soccer

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Palestine may come to the rescue of the Asian Games soccer tournament in Hiroshima which has been hit by multiple defections.

Palestine and Malaysia have made late entries which could save the organisers from making a new draw following the withdrawals of Brunei, Mongolia and Indonesia.

The Hiroshima organisers were reluctant to hold a re-draw because all of Japan's games in qualifying group E have already been organised and all tickets sold.

Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan said that if the late entries were accepted, Palestine and Malaysia could take the place of Indonesia and Brunei in the existing draw.

New rules will be used for the soccer contest at the games from October 2-16. A win will be worth three points instead of two for group games, as it was at the World Cup.

Sudden death extra-time will be introduced for knockout stage games level after 90 minutes. The first goal scored will settle the match and if there are no goals after 30 minutes there will be a penalty shootout.

The "Golden goal" rule is already used in Japan's J-League and former England captain Gary Lineker, now with Nagoya Grampus Eight, believes it adds extra excitement to matches.

ranking and cabinet-level official exchanges with Taiwan after it broke diplomatic relations with the Nationalist island in 1972 and switched recognition to Beijing.

China has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province ever since Nationalist forces fled to the island in 1949 after a losing a civil war to the communists.

Japan will have a similar problem to resolve when it hosts a summit of the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum next

year, to which both China and Taiwan might be invited.

Lee was prevented from attending last year's APEC summit in Seattle because of Chinese objections. The Chinese president is also reported to have threatened to boycott this year's APEC summit in Indonesia if Lee attends.

The source said the government was also concerned as Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama was planning to visit China before the end of the year, probably in October.

Europe's footballers back on the ball

PARIS (AFP) — Europe's footballers will once again be donning boots and shin pads this weekend as the new league season kicks off in Germany, Portugal and Belgium.

The stars of the Italian Calcio and the Spanish Liga may have another two weeks in the sun, but it's back to work for the rest of the continent, where the spotlight is firmly trained on the Bundesliga.

After a short spell in the wilderness, big spending Bayern Munich are back in charge of the German league, having being crowned champions last season and finishing runners-up the year before.

And for 1994/95, Bayern have by far the strongest team on paper, after spending \$3.5 million on French striker Jean-Pierre Papin and a further \$1.8 million on Swiss World Cup revelation Alain Sutter in midfield.

Papin is clearly hoping to make a fresh start after two unhappy seasons with AC Milan. Underrated by Fabio Capello's team tactics and orders, the Frenchman failed to find the form which made him a European Footballer of the Year with Olympique Marseille.

"I'm going to explode," he predicted. "I've got the same role as I had at Marseille. In Italy, I could never try anything spectacular because of the constraints of team orders."

"The Calcio is not a league for goal scorers," he said. "I don't know of a single team which doesn't walk onto the field with the aim of getting a 0-0 draw. If you can score a goal in the 89th minute, OK. But before then you stay put."

"It's not a system I fitted into. Yet I've often thought of Ian Rush. A great goalscorer at Liverpool, he went to Juventus and only scored three times. He went back to England and scored 30."

There will however be another Italian connection for Bayern this season as the new coach is Giovanni Trapattoni, brought in from Inter Milan.

There are more World Cup stars at the back of the Bayern pack in Brazilian Jorginho and German captain Lothar Matthaus while Papin will be playing up front with Colombian Adolfo Valencia.

Bayern, with an automatic place in the European Champions league, have also stumped up three million dol-



France's Corentin Martins (left) and David during the friendly match Wednesday which Ginals (right) try to stop Czech Novotny ended in a 2-2 draw (AFP photo)

lars for Karlsruhe goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Their opening match is against VfL Bochum Saturday in Munich's Olympic stadium.

Three clubs will be challenging Franz Beckenbauer's side for honours — Borussia Dortmund, Werder Bremen and Eintracht Frankfurt.

Dortmund, last season's runners-up, have splashed out \$7.5 million on bringing Juventus' Julio Cesar of Brazil and Andreas Moller to Germany.

In Stefan Reuter, Matthias Sammer, Karl-Heinz Riedle, Dortmund now have five players in their first team squad with experience of Calcio's Serie A.

Bremen, who beat Bayern 3-1 in the German Super Cup showdown earlier this month, have consistently proved that modest resources do not always make for modest results. The club is Germany's most successful in domestic action over the last 10 years.

But like Bayern's first team, they will want to forget last weekend's disastrous German Cup tie. The holders were knocked out in the first round by Bayern's B team, who play in the amateur championships.

Bayern's A team were scuppered by TSV Vestenbergsgreuth, who play in one of the country's regional leagues.

Eintracht, hoping to win the first division title for the

first time in the club's history, will again be turning to their African duo — Anthony Yeboah of Ghana and Nigeria's Augustin Okocha — for inspiration.

Yeboah finished as the Bundesliga's joint top scorer last season with Kaiserslautern's Stefan Kuntz, on 18 goals apiece. Okocha, at only 21, is already being talked of as one of the greatest attacking midfielders of his generation.

To try and guide the team to that elusive crown Eintracht have brought back former West German international Jupp Heynckes, as coach, from Bilbao.

In their first games this weekend, Dortmund host newly promoted PSV 1860 Munich, Bremen travel to Dynamo Dresden and Eintracht are at home to Cologne.

The French league is already well underway, but with champions Paris St. Germain and last season's European Cup representatives Monaco both struggling in the wrong half of the table after four matches.

PSG have the unenviable task of an away game at the league's joint leaders Nantes in a match which was to be played Friday night.

Last time they met, Nantes inflicted the Parisians' worst defeat of the season, 3-0. Nantes have won three of their four games so far this season while PSG have won only once.

Benfica are coached by Arthur Jorge who in two seasons in France won the Cup and championship for Paris St. Germain before the television company which supplies most of the club's money got bored with his brand of football.

Mansell looking to get back on track

LUDON, New Hampshire (AP) — Nigel Mansell and Paul Tracy return this weekend to the scene of one of the great Indy-car races, with Mansell looking for a replay to get back on track this season.

With time running out in the 1993 Slick 50 200 at the New Hampshire International Speedway, Mansell was third behind Tracy and Emerson Fittipaldi, with several lapped cars also in front of him.

"Up until the last five laps, I was in no position to win," Mansell said.

But after slipping past Fittipaldi, Mansell worked through traffic and finally got

Tracy in his sights. He pulled off a daring inside pass on turn two of lap 197 and then fended off repeated attempts by Tracy to regain the lead. Mansell won the race by .453 seconds and went on to win the Indy-car driving title as a rookie.

A year later, Mansell said the victory "definitely was one of the three best of my career. It ranks straight up with the Brands Hatch in 1986 and Silverstone in 1987."

"It's the most thoroughbred racing I've ever done in my life. You can race in a different way on ovals which you can't do on road courses. You can take different lines



Nigel Mansell

and go side by side." Mansell hopes to relieve the moment Sunday in a renewal of the Slick 50 200 at

the one-mile oval, the nation's newest superspeedway. He could use a boost.

In 11 races this year, his best finish is a second, after winning five times last year. He also is far behind in the standings in sixth place with 79 points with six races left.

"We'll be ready at New Hampshire to redeem ourselves," he said, and pointed to the wide track that allows room for passing.

The Roger Penske team, led by Al Unser Jr., has taken the spotlight this year, with Unser far ahead in the standings with 153 points, followed by teammates Fittipaldi with 117 and Tracy with 91.



Michael Stich

Stich advances, Washington upsets Korda in New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Top-seeded Michael Stich beat 15th-seeded Daniel Vacek 6-2, 6-2 in the Volvo International late Thursday in a match interrupted by an emergency alarm accidentally set off by another player's young son.

Stich, who earlier beat Marcelo Rios in a match resumed because of a rain delay Wednesday, was leading Vacek 6-2, 2-1 in the third round match when the alarm sounded at stadium court.

The players and fans evacuated the 15,000-seat stadium after an automated voice came over loudspeakers, saying "an emergency device had been discovered," and instructing anyone inside to calmly leave.

Moments after the building was emptied, tournament officials broadcast over the loudspeaker system on the grounds of the Connecticut Tennis Centre that it was a false alarm and safe to return to watch the match.

Stich finished off Vacek after a 5 1/2-minute delay, as fans were filing back into their seats.

Stich, who earlier Thurs-

day beat Rios 6-3, 7-5 in a second-round match suspended Wednesday night when it started to rain, was one of five players advancing to the quarterfinals.

No. 11 Malivai Washington upset no. 5 Petr Korda 6-3, 6-3 in a match between the last two runner-ups of the tournament — Washington in 1992 and Korda last year.

In other early third-round matches, no. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat qualifier Wayne Black 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; no. 8 Patrick Rafter defeated Vincent Spadea 7-6 (7-2), 6-4; and no. 7 Marc Rosset overcame no. 10 Ivan Lendl 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, 6-4.

In night matches, third-seeded Boris Becker defeated no. 13 Andrei Chesnokov, and no. 2 Andrei Medvedev, the defending Volvo champion, won the second of his back-to-back matches to advance to the quarterfinals.

Medvedev, who won against Grant Stafford early Thursday in a second-round match postponed the day before because of the weather, beat no. 16 Stefano Pescosolido 6-2, 7-6 (7-3).

Stich said he tried to get

off the court as fast as he could after hearing the alarm, which was accidentally set off in the players' lounge by the 2-year-old son of Cyril Suk, who's competing in the doubles competition.

"All I thought to do is get off the court as quickly as possible and get somewhere safe," he said.

Stich said playing back-to-back matches didn't hurt his game, and that he was somewhat surprised by how quickly he was able to finish off Vacek.

"It was easier than I expected it to be," Stich said.

The false alarm was the latest calamity at the Volvo International, which seems to have some type of problem each year since moving to New Haven in 1990.

On Tuesday night, Andre Agassi made a mockery of the music being played between changovers, an idea being tested by the ATP tour.

In past years, the tournament has suffered from numerous rain delays, problems with the court surface, and player complaints about the lights.

Unseeded Karbacher upsets Bruguera in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Unseeded Bernd Karbacher of Germany advanced to the quarterfinals of the RCA championships Thursday with an upset of second-seed, Sergi Bruguera.

Karbacher said after his 7-6 (7-5), (7-3) victory he knew he couldn't volley with Bruguera, ranked third in the world.

"You have to go for your best shots, and if you miss, you miss," Karbacher said.

The aggressive tactics paid off with a victory, putting Karbacher into a U.S. quarterfinal for the first time. It is also his best showing in a hardcourt tournament.

"I always played pretty good on hardcourts, but I never had big wins," Karbacher said. "I think it is the biggest win for me, of course."

Bruguera became the fifth of the top six seeds to lose at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre this week. Only third-seeded Stephan Edberg has escaped upset.

Seventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa moved into the quarterfinals with a three-set victory over the ninth seed, Carlos Costa of Spain, 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (3-7), 6-2.

The run of hometown favourite Kent Kinnear of

nearby Greenwood ended against fellow American Richey Reneberg, 6-1, 6-0.

Alex Corretja of Spain, who ousted fifth-seeded Jim Courier on Tuesday, continued his strong play with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over the 12th seed, Andrei Ganev.

The 16th seed, Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, ousted doubles specialist Mark Woodforde of Australia 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). Woodforde had upset top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia Wednesday to make the third round.

Jonathan Stark of Seattle ended the impressive run of Mats Wilander, 6-3, 6-3.

IAAF to look in fight between 100m stars

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The IAAF said Friday it will examine whether to take disciplinary action against two 100-metre stars who had a fist fight, even though the two consider the matter closed.

Nigerian sprinter Olapade Adeniken had to withdraw from the lucrative Golden Four meeting in Brussels Friday after being injured in a fight with American runner Dennis Mitchell early Thursday in Zurich.

"While this is a private matter, the IAAF finds the behaviour of both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Adeniken unbecoming of world class athletes and detrimental to both the sport and the nations they

represent," the International Amateur Athletic Federation said in a statement.

Adeniken was briefly hospitalized and needed two stitches to close a cut over one eye, was bruised and felt dizzy after the brawl.

American 110-metre hurdler Roger Kingdom and hotel security guards separated the sprinters as some 60 hotel guests watched.

"This kind of behaviour is intolerable," the IAAF statement said.

Both men had run the 100 metres in the Weltklasse Grand Prix meeting in the Swiss city late Wednesday and were both scheduled to run in Brussels Grand Prix Friday.

Two horses for Boutin in Prix Mornay race

PARIS (R) — French trainer Francis Boutin, who has won the Prix Mornay five times in the last six years, has two horses in a seven-strong field for the Deauville race Sunday.

Boutin runs Batista and Expelled in the Prix Mornay, first French group one race of the year for two-year-olds.

Batista, bred for former top French trainer Alec Head, made a winning debut at the Normandy track in July in the Prix Yacowlef, romping home by two and a half lengths.

Expelled gained a hard-fought win over another of Sunday's contenders, Teresh-

kova, at Longchamp in June.

The pair met again in the group two Prix Robert Papin at Maisons-Laffitte in July when Tereshkova lost by a neck to British colt General Monash, with Expelled a further five lengths back in a third after losing a shoe.

Tereshkova, trained by Andre Fabre, went on to win the group three Prix de Cabourg at Pauville earlier this month.

In a strong foreign presence, British filly Hoh Magic, from the Newmarket Yard of in-form Michael Bell, has solid credentials having won three of her four starts.

Versatile Morceli steps down to 800 in Cologne

BONN (R) — Noureddine Morceli, who already has world records in the mile, 1,500 and 3,000 metres to his name, aims to prove his remarkable versatility with a world-class 800 metres time at Sunday's Cologne Grand Prix athletics meeting.

Meeting chief Manfred Gernar said Friday that 24-year-old Morceli, who smashed the 3,000 world record in Monaco earlier this month, believes he can run one of the fastest times in the world this year for the two-lap race.

Although he is very unlikely to threaten Sebastian Coe's 13-year-old world best of 1:41.73, the Algerian gave clear evidence of his speed with a last lap of 55 seconds when he broke Kenyan Moses Kiptanui's 3,000 record with a time of seven minutes 25.11 seconds.



Noureddine Morceli

Morceli, who has said he is capable of breaking every world record from 800 to 5,000, is to take on Olympic and newly crowned European 1,500 metres champion Fermin Cacho of Spain and Kenya's Olympic 800 champion William Tanui in what should be a fascinating race.

Kiptanui set the previous 3,000 best of 7:28.96 at the Cologne meeting two years ago and will go over the same distance in one of the other highlights of the high-class meeting in the Rhine city.

The world steeplechase champion will clash with Germany's Olympic 5,000 metres champion Dieter Baumann and his fellow Kenyan Paul Bitok, silver medalist over 5,000 at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Gernar was hesitant about billing the race as another world-record bid by Kiptanui, who clocked the fastest

time in the world this year for the 3,000 steeplechase at the Zurich Grand Prix Wednesday. Much will depend on the conditions.

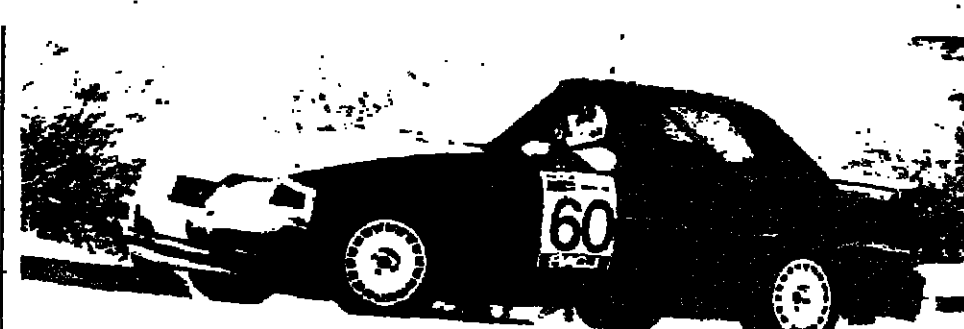
Mozambique's world champion Maria Mutola is scheduled to run in the women's 800 after her world record bid was thwarted by rain in Zurich. Mutola still managed the fastest time of the year of one minute 55.19 seconds in the Swiss city.

The women's 100 metres also has a good field with Gwen Torrence, American world 100 bronze medalist and Olympic 200 champion, out to avenge her 200 defeat

in Zurich by Russian double European champion Irina Privalova.

The men's 100 metres is without Britain's Olympic and world champion Linford Christie, who will head to Canada for the Commonwealth Games after Friday's "Golden four" meeting in Brussels.

But in-form American Dennis Mitchell, the Olympic bronze medalist who was involved in a hotel brawl after the meeting in Zurich, is due to take on his top-class compatriots Jon Drummond and world silver medalist Andre Cason.



Bashar Bustami Friday climbs to victory in Al Rumman Hill Climb (Photo by Rana Hussein)

Bustami captures title of Rumman Hill Climb

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Bashar Bustami Friday drove his Ford Sierra Cosworth to victory as he topped 67 top-level Arab and Jordanian competitors at the Rumman Hill Climb to claim both titles for the single and total time recorded over two stages.

Bustami registered 2 minutes 12.37 seconds in the first round of the three-kilometre race, and came back in the second round to break his own record with a time of 2:12.20. This record, however, was still far from that of the previous record of 2:02.42 set by His Majesty King Hussein in 1989 in a Mercedes 190.

The second place single and overall totals were won by Lebanese Adel Matti in his BMW M3 who clocked 2:16:55 in the first stage and 2:15:12 in the second and final stage.

Hasan Abu Samra took the

third place after he fell 4 seconds short of Matti's totals in his Daihatsu Charmant Spl. Abu Samra's total in both stages was 4:36:31.

The race, considered one of the most popular auto sports events in the Kingdom saw the elimination of seven auto racers. Jordan's 1993 Drivers Open champion Amjad Farrah was forced out of the race in the second stage after one of his Renault 5 Turbo 2 tyres blew up. Fawaz Bilbeisi was also forced out of the competition during the second stage, when he lost control of his vehicle on a sharp curve, hit a fence and rolled over before landing on a pile of rocks. None was hurt in the accident.

Randa Nabulsi, appearing for the third time in the competition, was the only female participant. In her first appearance in 1988, she clocked 2:36:00. She was unable to improve her previous record as she finished the

race in 2:49:51.

Nabulsi, driving a Seat Ibiza SXi, won the women's title.

The hill climb, which was initiated by His Majesty back in 1956 is a favourite among the sports fans who in this year's event did not respect the course, with some of them crossing the street during the race, thus distracting the racers.

The event, which was organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and sponsored by Pepsi and the Forte Grand Hotel, is a full day event which is divided into six classes depending on the engine capacity of cars. It offers competitors and spectators alike a chance to witness top level competition in one of the most scenic parts of the Kingdom.

Awards were distributed to the winners late Friday after the official results were announced.

Talks between baseball owners, striking players will continue

NEW YORK (AP) — Talks between baseball owners and striking players will resume next week, according to a government mediator who met with representatives of both sides here Thursday.

John Calhoun Wells, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said owners accepted his request to meet here for talks, although exactly when talks would resume was uncertain.

"Players and owners are hopeful we can move forward so these meetings can begin next week," Wells said, indicating an owners' delegation would join negotiator Richard Ravitch in the negotiations.

The strike had wiped out 86 games through Thursday, matching the total of the 1972 players' strike. Only a 50-day walkout in 1981 that erased 712 games has shortened a season more.

Owners and players also have a date with Congress next month to explain why baseball should retain an exemption from anti-trust laws.

Texas Democrat representative Jack Brooks said the exemption has helped create eight work stoppages in baseball since 1972.

A bill put before lawmakers Thursday would give the

players some security by allowing them to sue owners should they try to impose a salary cap without an agreement from the players. That fear was one reason the players walked out as the season was reaching its most exciting final weeks.

"The courts have been saying we should do something about the anti-trust legislation for years," said Kentucky Republican representative Jim Bunning, a major league pitcher from 1955-1971 who helped negotiate contracts with owners in his playing days.

Meanwhile, fans in U.S. and Canadian cities sought alternatives to baseball.

Former Baltimore player Boog Powell, whose beloved backseat pit behind Baltimore's outfield is closed by the walkout, moved his operation to horse races in Saratoga, New York.

"It has reached the point where it's not about whose right or wrong, but let's get it done with," Powell said.

Attendance at minor-league games near major-league cities has more than doubled. Boston fans now watch a development club an hour's drive south of their home field. Detroit fans flock to watch the nearby Mud

Hens of Toledo. New York area fans have discovered lowest-level teams, as have California fans missing their five major-league clubs.

Some faithful refuse to give up. STATS Incorporated factors in statistics and plays games on computer, providing updated standings and results of games that happen only on megabyte fields of electronic dreams.

"A lot of people start the day with a cup of coffee and box scores. We're helping them get through the morning," said STATS President Jim Capuano.

The computers even had Shawon Dunston of the Chicago Cubs ejected from a game for arguing an umpire's decision.

In Boston, television viewers are treated to Red Sox victories every night, thanks to edited footage of past games. Many other cities delve into history of their teams to find happier moments and memories.

Detroit's Tiger Stadium allows children and parents to run the bases. Tours of Cleveland's new stadium have sold out this week. Fans in San Diego continue to gather behind centerfield fences for picnics.

Former world champ cherished Lithuania as much as his title

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Jack Sharkey, son of Lithuanian immigrants, was as proud of his ethnic heritage as he was of being heavyweight boxing champion.

Sharkey, known in New Hampshire, where he spent more than half his life, as "the Squire of Epping," died Wednesday at 91. He was champion in 1932-33.

Whenever he recognised a reporter who spoke his boyhood language, the hulking bulldog of a man inevitably would say, "Sveiks, Broli Lietuvi Kaip Tau?" — "Hello, brother Lithuanian how are you?"

From there on, he'd insist upon speaking in the world's oldest spoken Sanskrit-related tongue because he said he needed the practice and no one spoke it at home in Epping.

Even though he changed his name from Joseph Paul

Zukauskas when he started to box, he didn't hide his ethnic background.

It was hard to keep Sharkey on topic because he'd want to know the latest news from Lithuania's tiny Lithuanian community, where he often was at the head table during ethnic celebrations at St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church.

Whether the subject was Muhammad Ali, whom he held to be the greatest fighter ever, or his encyclopaedic knowledge of hunting and fishing in New England, Sharkey would turn the conversation to fellow Lithuanian-American athletes — Eddie Waitkus, Dick Butkus, Johnny Unitas, Vitas Gerulaitis.

A map of Lithuania hung in his study beside a photograph captioned "The kid's last fight," showing the former champ face down on the mat.

Sharkey started visiting Epping in the 1920s to train and recuperate from his bouts. He settled there in 1952 and moved into the house in which his late wife had been born.

During his years in Epping, he and U.S. major league baseball star Ted Williams often appeared together at sportsmen's shows.

In recent years, he moved to a nursing home in Beverly, Mass.

The townspeople paid Sharkey the ultimate tribute when they hung two autographed pictures of him next to the president of the United States at the Epping post office.

Sharkey said he didn't miss the boxing as much as he missed the attention of having been a celebrity.

"It's nice to be remembered and hell to be forgotten," he used to tell his Lithuanian visitors.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TEST YOUR PLAY

Neither vulnerable. East deals

NORTH
♠ 10 8
♥ Q 9 6
♦ A K J 10 2
♣ 8 5 3

EAST
♠ K 5 4
♥ A Q J 2
♦ 10
♣ Q 7 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 7 3
♥ A K 8 4 3 2
♦ 8 3
♣ A 10

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♥ Pass 2♠
Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥
Pass 4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Imagine that you're playing in the European Championship. With the result of your match riding on this deal, you and your partner reach a good contract of four hearts. How would you play if you receive the lead of a trump? What about if West attacks with the king of clubs?

The auction is routine, so all that remains is for you to make your contract. For those declarers who received an unfriendly trump lead,

The solution is to win the club lead, cash the ace of trumps and then play A K J of diamonds. If East ruffs, declarer overruffs and will be able to ruff the third spade in dummy. If East covers, declarer ruffs high, crosses to the queen of trumps and discards a club on the ten of diamonds — the defenders can get, at most, one trump and two spades. If East follows low, declarer simply discards the club loser and all's well.

T O D A Y	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema Tel.: 675571	Cinema Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION	Mahmoud Abed Al Aziz IN KHALTBITA	CONCORD '1' STRIKING DISTANCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Tom Hanks — in Philadelphia Shows: 3 - 6 - 19:30	ABOVE THE LAW Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 From Aug. 24 the political play "Sahra Kamonneyeh"	The political play Welcome Arabic Summit At 8:30 every Saturday and Sunday Salam Ya Salam play At 8:30 every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Tuesday closed.	Welcome Arab Summit at 8:30 p.m. every Saturday, Sunday and Monday and the play: What a Peace I Salam Ya Salam Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30				

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed in Turkish bomb blasts

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police said a 19-year-old man was killed on Friday in the southern city of Adana when a bomb he was trying to attach to an electrical transformer exploded prematurely. Anatolia news agency quoted police as saying the man was a "terrorist," adding that a gun found on his body was linked to three murders over the past two years. The agency gave no other details. In a separate incident, a 36-year-old man lightly wounded when a time-bomb exploded outside a primary school in Istanbul. A Turkish newspaper earlier listed the school as one of six in Istanbul slated to be closed and sold by the education ministry, and police said the bombing may have been a protest against such a move.

Plot to grow 'grass' in graveyard foiled

NICOSIA (AP) — A family's plan to grow marijuana in its cemetery plot went to pot when police nabbed Panayiotas Paschali, 42, and her son Dimitri, 16, watering four plants by the graves. "We had the plants at home, but they were doing poorly so my wife decided to take them into the open air in the graveyard to avoid getting in trouble," said Mr. Panayiotas's husband, Antonis, a 45-year-old taxi driver, when all three appeared in court Friday. After they were committed for trial for growing an illegal substance, Mr. Paschali shouted: "Why were we arrested? Smoking pot's allowed in Europe."

Cyprus wants halt to Albanian trial

NICOSIA (AP) — Parliament will appeal to world parliaments and human rights groups to intervene to stop Albania's alleged persecution of its ethnic Greek minority, officials said Friday. The appeal was prompted by the trial this week in the Albanian capital, Tirana, of five ethnic Greeks on espionage charges. "This trial is a travesty of justice and part of the persecution of the Greek minority," said Vassos Lyssarides, acting president of the Cyprus parliament composed entirely of Greek Cypriots. "We will appeal to international parliaments and human rights groups to intervene to stop the trial and the persecution," he added. Parliamentary party leaders also decided to send a delegation to Albania to observe the political-explosive trial. Mr. Lyssarides noted. The five Greeks were arrested in April following an attack by gunfire on an Albanian army training camp, killing two soldiers and wounding seven.

Two Pakistanis get Islamic justice in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Pakistani was beheaded Friday for drug smuggling and another had his hand cut off for looting, the Interior Ministry announced. It said Kashkhan Fathi Khan, convicted by an Islamic court of smuggling heroin hidden in his intestines, was executed in the capital, Riyadh. Maatouf Ahal Banja was convicted of breaking into a depot for looting and had his right hand cut off at the wrist in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the ministry said. Islamic law, enforced in Saudi Arabia, prescribes beheading for convicted murderers and rapists, hand-cutting for thieves, and stoning for adulterers. Saudi Arabia's leading clerics ruled in 1987 that drug smugglers and peddlers should also be executed. Death sentences are usually carried out on Fridays in public squares outside mosques after noon prayers. More than 20 people, including Saudis, Pakistanis, Nigerians and Indians, have been beheaded so far this year for murder, narcotics-related crimes and rape.

AFP also 'liberated' with Paris

PARIS (AFP) — On Aug. 20, 1944, five days before the surrender of German troops in Paris, a group of French journalists and academics burst into the offices of the Vichy-run French information office and took over, giving birth to Agence France Presse. The group of resistance members crossed Paris by bicycle and entered AFP headquarters in the early morning, escorting a Nazi censor into the basement where he was locked up. Three-and-a-half hours later the first AFP dispatch hit the wire announcing that the oldest world news agency was back in business. The news agency, formerly known as Agence Havas after its founder in 1835 Charles-Louis Havas, was dismantled by the Nazis and the news branch became the official state news agency during World War II. But AFP's international network continued to live on through the Independent French Agency based at Mr. Havas' London offices. After the liberation, the various branches were reunited to become Agence France-Presse which obtained its current status as an independent news agency by an act of parliament in 1957.

China denounces killers in Algeria

BEIJING (R) — China on Friday denounced the killing of two Chinese workers in Algeria four days ago and urged the Algerian government to guarantee the safety of its citizens there. State radio on Friday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the two, who worked for the Chinese Foreign Water Conservancy and Power Co., were shot dead by four "terrorists" while driving to a shopping centre close to their homes. "We are shocked and deeply grieved to learn that two innocent Chinese workers were killed by terrorists in Algeria and we strongly condemn this brutal act," the spokesman said. "We hope the Algerian government will handle the incident properly and take practical, effective measures to guarantee the safety of Chinese citizens in Algeria." The radio said Algerian security forces traded gunfire with the four gunmen, killing two on the spot. Muslim fundamentalists have been fighting Algeria's army-backed government since Jan. 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election which the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front looked set to win. More than 4,000 people have died in ensuing political violence and militants have told foreigners to leave the country on pain of death. The two Chinese were among some 60 foreigners killed since September last year.

Moroccan king pardons 102 on anniversary

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has granted pardons to 102 prisoners to mark the 41st anniversary of the exiling of his father King Mohammed V by the French authorities, the Justice Ministry said in a statement on Friday. The statement did not identify the prisoners who are all common criminals. Sent into exile in Madagascar by the French protectorate authorities on Aug. 20, 1953, King Mohammed was returned to his throne on Nov. 16, 1955 and the protectorate was abolished the following March. In March this year the king commuted to life imprisonment death sentences on 195 persons and in July he announced 424 political prisoners and exiles. He also pardoned 749 other prisoners on public holidays earlier this year.

Iran's legendary singer leaves Iran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Marzieh, Iran's legendary artist and songstress who recently left the country, a met on Thursday with Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the Iranian resistance's president-elect, at Auver-sur-Oise, France, the National Council of Resistance of Iran said. Marzieh, 69, learned music and the art of singing 50 years ago under some of the masters of Iranian music. Having performed some 1,000 songs in a span of half a century, she is recognised as Iran's greatest and most distinguished music star. "The mullahs' medieval dictatorship banned her from performing for the last 15 years; she never submitted to the conditions set by the criminal mullahs," said a council statement. "She left Iran to join the Iranian resistance and declare support for the resistance's president-elect." Mrs. Rajavi, identified Marzieh as "Iran's Un-Kolossal," a "great talent" of Iran's music and song, and a "brilliant star" of Iranian art.



Homeless gather at the entrance of makeshift tents after their homes had been destroyed by an earthquake which

devastated a large part of northwestern Algeria early Thursday (AFP photo)

Algeria quake toll rises to 164

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Rescuers battled across rough terrain Friday to reach isolated victims of the earthquake which devastated much of northwestern Algeria while the provisional death toll rose from 159 to 164, officials said Friday.

The quake, which struck the mountainous Mascara area before dawn Thursday, left some 1,420 families, estimated at up to 10,000 people, homeless.

Rescue and relief operations in isolated villages, some of which were wiped out by the tremor, were hampered by bad mountain roads and wide cracks in the ground, but the army used helicopters to bring in water, food and medicine.

The provisional toll of those injured remained unchanged at 289, of which 196 were still in hospital.

The quake struck early Thursday when most people were asleep in their homes. Authorities said the army had rapidly deployed in the region to identify stricken villages and help rescue teams.

Hundreds of homeless were given tents and food at Hassine at the epicentre of the quake, where relief operations were also based. "We have treated all the emergencies since Thursday," said a young civil de-

fense doctor.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi pledged that all homeless people would be relocated before winter sets in. Mr. Sifi and seven ministers including Interior Minister Abdul Rahman Meziane Cherif visited the region shortly after the quake struck.

Fearing epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever and tetanus, the authorities have ordered checks of drinking water and vaccinations of all injured.

Since Thursday, 5,000 tents and 8,000 blankets have been shipped to the quake area, where shortages of water and milk for children have been reported.

The government said it would also place 300 houses near Algiers originally built to accommodate public figures threatened by Muslim fundamentalists at the disposal of people made homeless by the quake.

Steps have been taken to boost security in the region, which is believed to harbour an Islamic extremist cell.

Thousands of people spent Thursday night under the stars around the levelled town of Hassine. The quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 5.6, according to Algerian officials.

Even in less-stricken areas, many people preferred to

sleep outdoors, fearing aftershocks could bring down their homes of them. No nighttime aftershocks were felt.

The Red Crescent set up a central depot in Hassine to collect donations. In France, the foreign ministry announced that the French government will send tents, blankets and medical material.

The pre-dawn quake and aftershocks, one reaching a magnitude of 5.1, devastated a large area in Mascara, collapsing thousands of mud-and-straw dwellings as their occupants slept.

In addition to the dead, at least 289 people were hurt, many by their collapsing roofs, officials said. Authorities have released no financial estimate of the damage.

Workers cleared roads of debris Friday to bring in aid, while helicopters flew supplies to remote areas. Feeding and medical stations were set up for children and old people.

Officials have appealed for blood donations, food, milk for children and blankets. They have warned that drinking water could soon be a short supply in the drought-stricken region.

No international request for aid has been launched, and two French medical relief

agencies overburdened with the Rwanda crisis said they would wait one before deciding whether to help out.

Medecins Sans Frontieres said that if a team was sent, strong security guarantees would be demanded to ensure their safety from Islamic rebels, who have killed 58 foreigners in the past year.

Another French agency, Secours Populaire Français, sent a small team to liaise with local charities and expressed the hope that gunmen would not kill aid workers.

The rebels hope to isolate and topple the country's military-backed regime, installed in a coup that robbed a Muslim fundamentalist party of election victory in January 1992.

Authorities decided that only the Red Crescent would be authorised to collect and ship gifts for quake victims after Islamic extremists organised relief operations in the wake of a deadly earthquake in Tipaza in 1989.

The Tipaza aid operations are believed to have helped the since-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front sweep local elections in June 1990.

In Paris, the FIS called on the people of Algeria and "mujahideen" fighters to assist the victims of the earthquake.

Lawyer named Lesotho premier

MASERU (Agencies) — Human rights lawyer Hae Phoofole was Friday sworn in as chairman of a provisional council to rule Lesotho for the next 12 months following a "royal coup" in which Prime Minister Ntsa Mokhehle was ousted.

At a ceremony conducted by Chief Justice Bolebela Kheola at the royal palace here, five other members of the council, all appointed Friday by King Letsie III, were also sworn in.

Among them was the leader of the opposition Basotho National Party (BNP), Everistus Sekhonyana, who was named foreign minister. Mr. King Letsie, who suspended sections of the constitution and dissolved parliament on Wednesday, presided over the brief ceremony but made no comment.

According to Mr. Phoofole, King Letsie had assumed executive and legislative powers and was now effective head of state. Previously he was merely a constitutional monarch.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, a solemn Phoofole said the occasion was "not one to be joyous about."

"I came in at a very tough time, when peace and tranquility in Lesotho was at its lowest ebb," he said. "It is our task to try and bring peace and stability in the country."

Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, meanwhile, rejected military intervention in Lesotho at a meeting Friday. They said they first would pursue diplomatic efforts to end the crisis in the state of 1.8 million people entirely surrounded by South Africa.

The military option was discussed, but we decided should concentrate on peaceful methods to solve the situation," said a news

Sarajevo airlift halted as U.N. probes mortar blasts

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo was suspended until further notice Friday as the United Nations completed a probe into a mortar blast that hit the airport the previous day.

A U.N. spokesman said the airport was reopening to military traffic but that the airlift would remain down.

Meanwhile, a second U.N. investigation was launched after a French soldier was shot dead in the Bosnian capital early Friday in what Paris described as an "intolerable" action against a man whose mission was "entirely in the service of peace."

Initial findings showed that the peacekeeper had been deliberately targeted, a U.N. spokesman said here.

Paratrooper Jean-Marc Carboneau, 22, was shot in the head with a 5.5-mm bullet which pierced his helmet while he was on guard at an observation post between the Bosnian government and Serb sectors, near the Jewish cemetery, the U.N. said.

He was the 22nd French soldier and 24th French national to be killed since fighting broke out in ex-Yugoslavia.

A statement read by U.N. spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Bertrand Labarousse said the soldier was "fatally wounded by a direct hit aimed through an aperture in his observation post."

Investigators have not yet determined where the shot was fired from, but the killer must have been no more than 200 metres away, he added.

Another spokesman, Rob Annink, said meanwhile that the investigation launched early Friday to determine which side blasted the airport runway with a mortar on Thursday afternoon had been

halted, but would give no support was reopened after flights to the capital, the Serbs have closed land routes in and out of Sarajevo that were only opened in March. That has caused a severe

deterioration in the city's food supply.

Normally, the U.N. relief workers distribute nearly 2,000 tonnes of food every two weeks in the city of 350,000 people. Now, there are only about 420 tonnes of food in stock, and the last handout was three weeks ago, U.N. spokesman Ron Redmond said in Geneva.

He said Sarajevo's only bakery was producing about half of its normal 80,000 loaves a day.

Mr. Redmond also reported Friday that Bosnian Serbs had expelled 110 Muslims from the Bijeljina area in northeast Bosnia, bringing to more than 400 the number of Muslims forced out of the region since mid-July. They arrived in Muslim-held Tuzla, northeast of Sarajevo, late Thursday.

The Bosnian Serbs have grown increasingly intransigent since refusing an international peace plan accepted by Muslims and Croats. That led their patrons in Serbia, increasingly squeezed by harsh international economic sanctions, to sever ties and vital supplies on Aug. 4.

Citizens of Serb-held Bosnia are to vote Aug. 27-28 on the peace plan, which would reduce Serb holdings from 70 per cent of Bosnia to 49 per cent and give the rest to a Muslim-Croat federation. They are expected to reject it.

On Thursday, Bosnian and Croatian Serbs proclaimed their desire to unite with Serbia and Montenegro in a "greater Serbia." The announcement appeared timed to increase Bosnian Serb opposition to the peace plan before the vote.

But President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, widely seen as the instigator of three years of Balkan warfare, is unlikely to go along. Mr. Milosevic wants to have crushing U.N. economic sanctions lifted on the Serbian-dominated remnants of Yugoslavia.

In addition to disrupting aid flights to the capital, the Serbs have closed land routes in and out of Sarajevo that were only opened in March. That has caused a severe

Argentina blast probe is stalled

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Argentine prosecutors probing for new leads to last month's bomb blast that killed nearly 100 people at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires have returned home from Paraguay empty-handed.

"No link was found," Argentina's ambassador to Paraguay Raul Carigano told a radio station.

The prosecutors had hoped to get firm leads on the identity of the bombers after evidence provided by a key witness linking Iran to the bombing was thrown into doubt.

They flew to Paraguay Wednesday after Paraguayan authorities, with the help of Interpol, arrested a Lebanese national Friday who the local media said could be involved in the attack.

The man said he could provide evidence about the blast, but investigations led to a dead end.

Iran has repeatedly denied any participation in the attack.

About 4,000 people marched to a courthouse Thursday to demand justice in the bomb attack and to honour the dead.

So far, only one person has been detained: Carlos Telleldin, 33, an Argentine who owned the minivan used in the July 18 bombing. He has been charged with falsifying the auto's paperwork, but is not accused of any role in the attack.

"The subject of who bought the car is one taking-off point. But from there, the link in the chain is cut off," Ruben Beraja, president of the Delegación de Jewish Argentine Associations, told the newspaper Pagina 12.

A federal judge ordered four Iranians detained for questioning and named three Iranian diplomats as suspects Aug. 11.

But the legal proceedings have since ground to a halt. Under Argentine law, the supreme court handles cases involving foreign diplomats, but the court has not yet decided to take over the investigation from federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano.

Mr. Beraja praised Judge Galeano for his firm commitment, but said the magistrate had come up with "very few results" so far.

Mr. Galeano last week set off a major diplomatic crisis with Iran after issuing international arrest warrants for four Iranian officials who a witness linked to the attack.

But Mr. Galeano's whole case was based on evidence provided by Manouchehr Motamer, a disaffected Iranian whose credentials as a witness have since been thrown into doubt.

Iranian Ambassador Hadi Soleimanpour threatened by President Carlos Menem with expulsion, left Argentina after his embassy, in a press statement, accused Mr. Galeano of building his case on the testimony of "unreliable or politically biased sources."

But Mr. Soleimanpour told reporters on arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad airport Thursday that his return did not mean the severance of Tehran-Buenos Aires diplomatic ties, Iran's RNA news agency said.

Tehran Radio quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday as saying Argentina was under U.S. and Israeli pressure in its dispute with Tehran over the bombing and urged it to act independently.

Mr. Velayati, quoted by Tehran Radio, said Washington and Israel were the main source of "malevolent propaganda and imaginary charges" linking Iran to the bombing.

U.S. Ambassador to Argentina James Cheek said Wednesday the Clinton administration suspected an Iranian connection and added Washington would support Argentina if it decided to break diplomatic ties with Tehran.

But Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella Thursday reiterated the government would not rush to take such a step.

"Thank you very much for the offer, but for the time being, we make the decisions here," he told a radio interviewer.

COLUMN

Queen praises Canada for balancing cultures

VICTORIA, British Columbia (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II congratulated Canada for balancing its different cultures but skirted controversy over the possible secession of French-speaking Quebec. "Since its creation this country, to a greater degree than most other nations, had to take up the challenge of integrating different cultures without putting them in the same mould," the queen told guests at a state dinner. "In the care with which Canada cherishes her own different cultures, she is showing the rest of the world her capabilities in partnership... they are qualities which all Canadians can rightly be proud of," she said. Dressed in a turquoise silk dress, the queen gave part of her address in slightly accented French. The 68-year-old monarch made no direct mention of Quebec but her comments were sure to be viewed by many Canadians as an oblique reference to the controversy. Since Canada gained independence from Britain in 1867, it has struggled to ease tensions between its French and English communities. The mainly French-speaking province of Quebec is in the middle of an election campaign that will likely result in a new separatist government.

Youth pleads not guilty in 1991 killing

NEW YORK (R) — A youth who was acquitted of murder of a rabbinical student during racial unrest in a New York neighbourhood in 1991 pleaded not guilty to federal charges of civil rights violations. Lemrick Nelson, 19, was found not guilty in 1992 of state charges of murder in the death of Australian Yankel Rosenbaum during riots that had broken out in the August 1991.

2-year-old tossed into the pool from balcony

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The father of a 2-year-old boy told police he was just trying to teach his son how to swim when he tossed him from a second-story balcony into the deep end of a swimming pool. The boy's adult cousin, Tony Wofford, saw what happened and dove into the pool. The boy was shaken, but otherwise fine. Michael Dwayne Willis Sr., 20, was arrested for investigation of child endangerment and was being held on \$50,000 bail, said police. Joseph Levy, "I'm teaching my baby how to swim," he told police. The boy's mother, Shylise Simpson, said the baby had been getting used to water. "For the past few weeks, we've been taking him into the pool, and he's been learning to hold his breath," she said. "Thank God. But even though he's used to the water, he sure doesn't know how to swim."

Pensioners cancel holiday after Woodstock mix-up

LONDON (R) — An elderly British couple cancelled a holiday in the picture-book Oxfordshire village of Woodstock after seeing ravers on television dancing to pop music at the Woodstock '94 anniversary festival. The pensioners called the Marlborough Arms Hotel to cancel after confusing the sleepy English village with the American rock festival held to mark 25 years since the original hippy gathering in 1969. "They said they couldn't put up with the crowds and the loud pop music," hotel duty Manager Mike Davis said Friday. Bemused, he told them the classical concerts at Blenheim Palace, a nearby stately home, rarely disturbed the rural tranquility, but the sceptical caller refused to be placated: "No, we've seen it on the telly. It's a huge pop concert. There's no way we could put up with all the louts."